

## Doctors, nurses and evacuation experts among back-up force mobilised for the Gulf

# Biggest call-up of reserves since Suez

By LIN JENKINS

CALL-UP papers for service in the Gulf went out to hundreds of medically qualified men and women in the biggest compulsory mobilisation of the reserve forces since Suez.

Tom King, defence secretary, announced yesterday that 390 people had been handpicked to counter the shortfall in volunteers who came forward as recruits on Thursday. They will comprise 250 reservists and the 140 of the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, who are trained in medical evacuation.

Mr King said most of the need for medical back-up teams in the Gulf had been met by about 700 volunteers who arrived at Aldershot and Glasgow on Thursday. "But we still need some extra reservists and it is for this purpose that the call-out letters have been issued." Those being called up are predominantly doctors, state enrolled general nurses and operating

theatre technicians. Both the volunteers and those compulsorily called up will begin training on January 2 and most will be sent to the Gulf where two field hospitals have been set up. Others will replace those in posts in the UK and Germany who have already been sent.

All will receive a gratuity of £210, and under the Reserve Forces Act 1980 will have their civilian jobs kept open on their return. Most will be recruited at the rank they held when they left the force, but some may be promoted if they have gained further qualifications since.

Provision has been made to pay them up to 20 per cent extra of their service salaries where they fall below that in civilian life. For others, such as a consultant surgeon earning £147,000 a year who volunteered, a special case will be put to the defence ministry for compensation.

Archie Hamilton, armed forces minister, said that those who were called up would be interviewed about any problems they might have. "We will look very sympathetically at people who have particular problems and we can select out people most useful to us and those for whom it is easiest to do it."

He added that while he understood people's concerns those who joined the forces did so knowing that they would be on the reserve for some time afterwards and could be called upon in an emergency. "We have always relied particularly on the medical side on reservists. It has always been accepted that come the crunch they have to be called up."

The call up was authorised by the Queen on December 17. It is the first for 25 years since a few specialised technicians from the reserve were sent to Aden, Borneo and Cyprus, and the largest since Suez in 1956 when national service still existed. On that occasion 900 officers and 25,000 reservists were called up. There was no compulsory mobilisation of the reserve during the Falklands campaign.

A Conservative MP, who was a major in the light infantry and is now on the reserve list, has volunteered to go to the Gulf. Derek Conway, aged 37, member for Shrewsbury, said he has received a letter saying the need for reservists may go wider than the medical back-up teams.

A former army bandsman, who was one of the 1,500 asked to volunteer and warned that they may be called up, said he would be prepared to go to jail rather than serve in the Gulf if he were among the 250 chosen. Trevor Cope, aged 37, a teacher from Sidmouth, Devon, claims he received only four weeks' training in a military hospital before leaving the force in 1979. "There is simply no way I am going to go."

□ In Washington, it was reported yesterday that President Bush has decided to order a massive military attack on Iraq.

Continued on page 22, col 1

Marines strengthened, page 7



Ready for action: soldiers of the Staffordshire Regiment leap from a Puma helicopter during an exercise in the Saudi Arabian desert yesterday

## Troops protected against anthrax

By MICHAEL EVANS

BRITISH soldiers in the frontline in Saudi Arabia are being inoculated against the effect of biological weapons as a result of a cabinet decision taken several weeks ago.

The threat from anthrax and other diseases was discussed at cabinet because of new intelligence reports that Iraq had acquired a limited, but effective biological warfare capability. The Pentagon also said yesterday that it is to start a vaccination programme for American servicemen after CIA warnings.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday that inoculation was one of the protective measures ordered by the government to safeguard British troops facing possible chemical and biological attacks from Iraqi forces.

Although a ministry spokesman refused to say which biological agents the immunisation programme covered, it is known that the government has been concerned about the potential threat from anthrax. Iraq has for some time been developing a powerful strain of *Bacillus anthracis*, which causes anthrax.

Like the United States, Britain has been trying to build up stocks of anthrax serum to start an inoculation programme, particularly for troops with the 7th and 4th Armoured Brigades who will be expected to fight in the frontline if a war begins.

All British troops have been supplied with nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) protective clothing and respirators. Servicemen also have special warning devices which they wear on their NBC suits, alerting them to nerve agents in the atmosphere. The existence of an inoculation programme has not been confirmed until now.

The anthrax serum and other biological safeguards have been produced at the government's chemical warfare research establishment at Porton Down in Wiltshire. Sources said there were not "huge stocks". But this did not mean that the ministry would be forced to carry out a highly selective immunisation programme. The cabinet decision to approve inoculation for the

troops came after consultations with the Americans. British officials were reluctant to say at what point troops would be inoculated because of the implication this might have for the timing of a potential conflict.

There are only limited supplies of anthrax serum because it can only be developed from the blood of a person who has been infected with anthrax bacteria. Anthrax is sometimes found in people who work with wool or leather, and in vets who regularly come into contact with sheep and cattle. It produces spores which induce pneumonia and a variety of skin diseases.

American stocks of vaccine against anthrax are limited. There is thought to be only one manufacturer in America capable of producing just 18,000 "shots" every three weeks. There has been high level consultation between Washington and London on the extremely sensitive question of how existing stocks should be used. It is thought that the issue was discussed last week by President Bush and John Major.

There is a school of thought which says the limited stocks of vaccine should be saved for the immediate aftermath of a biological weapons attack. Meanwhile, the foreign office announced last night that more than 21,000 British civilians in the Gulf are to be issued with gas masks next month because of the increasing prospects of military action against Iraq.

The agency said that widespread loss of life would be inevitable in parts of Sudan and Ethiopia unless nearly two million tonnes of food aid arrived next year. Only 2.7 million tonnes of food aid were delivered to sub-Saharan Africa in 1989/90, compared with the 3.9 million tonnes pledged by donors.

Edouard Souza, director general, said the FAO's early warning system indicated a sharp increase in food aid requirements in 1990/1 compared with levels in the previous year. The combined effects of civil war and drought are responsible for famine conditions in Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sudan and Liberia. But two consecutive years of drought have reduced harvests in all countries bordering the Sahelian zone, from Mauritania in the west to Sudan and Ethiopia in the east.

## Urgent food appeal for Africa

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SUB-SAHARAN Africa will need substantial increases in food aid in 1991 to fend off famine on an unprecedented scale.

Issuing an urgent appeal for aid, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation yesterday urged developed countries not to let domestic economic constraints and concern for eastern Europe divert attention from the needs of millions of Africans.

The agency said that wide-

## Death of baby will not deter surgeon

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE surgeon who performed an unsuccessful heart transplant on an 11-day-old baby said yesterday that the child's death would not deter him from carrying out more such operations.

The baby, Christy Strachan, who was born with an incurable heart defect, had the transplant at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London. The ten-and-a-half-hour operation began late on Thursday night after an international appeal produced a donor organ from a Merseyside hospital. After the transplant the new heart did not function adequately and Christy, of New Barnet, north London, died yesterday morning.

Marc de Leval, the consultant surgeon in charge, said: "We're disappointed and very sad, but I would do this operation again because we must learn from our failures as well as our successes."

Christy had hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a malformation that prevents the heart pumping properly. Most of the 200 babies born in Britain each year with the condition die within a few weeks. Christy's parents, Mark Strachan and Tracy Sheehan, were fully briefed on the hazards of the transplant.

Cruel choice, page 3

## RAF crews pick four out of sea

By DAVID YOUNG

RAF helicopter crews continued their rescue operations yesterday, plucking four people from the English Channel.

One, the captain of a cargo ship that sank in heavy seas in the Channel early yesterday, died in hospital after surviving for more than four hours in the sea, along with the fiancée of the ship's first officer. Two other crew members were rescued earlier from a life raft - First Officer Frank Jakabson, aged 31, from Nesseveien, Norway, and Jerzy Witkowski, aged 46, from Miliczanska, Poland.

The captain who died was Jorgen Eilertsen, aged 46, from Sarpsborg, Norway. The woman survivor is Ingrid Jakabson, aged 36, from Nesseveien. Miss Jakabson and Mr Eilertsen, her fiancé, were last night on their way back to Norway after being released from hospital. Mr Witkowski was detained in hospital.

Captain Eilertsen and Miss Jakabson were picked up by a Sea King helicopter from RAF Manston. Flight Lieutenant John Tension-Collins, a helicopter pilot, said: "They had put on survival suits. They did try to do the right things. Unfortunately, it was not quite enough for one of them."

Warrant Officer Norman Pringle, an RAF winchman, said that when he lifted the woman from the sea after four hours she was overwhelmed at being alive. "She told me she was okay. At first she smiled,

then she wept. As we came in overland, her face lit up with relief."

He added: "One of the reasons she survived is that she had her full survival suit on properly, including mitts."

Fifty yards away from the woman, the same helicopter, Rescue 166, spotted the ship's captain. He had died because he was unable to attach his survival suit hood and developed hypothermia.

The other two crew members were picked up from their life raft after the Norwegian cargo vessel Jarita went down. Eight ships and the Sea King searched throughout the night after the Jarita, carrying 1,000 tonnes of paper, put out a distress call at 3.20am.

With the captain and Miss Jakabson still missing, a second Sea King joined the search party at first light. Dover coastguards plotted the course on which they were likely to drift, and they were found within 100 yards of the expected spot.

Warrant Officer Pringle said: "They worked out the

Continued on page 22, col 6

## TODAY

When hope shone anew



Jan Morris, dismayed by the Eighties, looks back on the summer of 1990, when hope briefly opened a window on better times SATURDAY REVIEW

Life after Hollywood

Dudley Moore on his return to television, making supermarket commercials and a series about the orchestra SATURDAY REVIEW

Make a sports date in 1991

A calendar of events in every sport for 1991, the essential who-where-when guide PAGES 28, 29

THE TIMES NEW YEAR

Fifty years ago today...

Amy Johnson in January, Mozart in December: The Times anniversaries of 1991 NEW YEAR'S EVE

So they aren't all called Jock?

Alan Hamilton chooses a convenient date on which to assess the real differences between the Scots and the English NEW YEAR'S EVE

Resolution number one

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## INSIDE

### Big slump in new car sales

Vehicle sales slumped in Britain last month as the recession bit harder, according to government figures released yesterday.

New vehicle registrations in November numbered only 149,000. This is the lowest November figure for a decade, and marks a decline of a fifth on the same month a year ago. Page 33

### England recover



Angus Fraser collected the best bowling figures of his Test career, 6-82, to lead England's recovery on the third day of the second Test. Australia were all out for 306 in their first innings. 46 runs behind England. Page 23

### Home price rise

A cut in interest rates by 2 points in the next few months could signal an increase in house prices of 5 per cent by the end of 1991, the Halifax Building Society says. Page 5

### Police chief out

The Chinese government dismissed the head of the police force and said pornographers and drug smugglers will face the death penalty. Page 9

### Officers set free

Greece's conservative government said it would release from jail three army officers who were sentenced to death by firing squad for seizing power in 1967 and running a brutal dictatorship. Page 22

### Dollar falls

The US dollar fell sharply yesterday after more signs emerged of a US recession and foreign exchange dealers began to sense further interest rate cuts to prevent a severe recession. Page 32

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## Idyllic village refuses to toe the yellow lines

By RONALD FAUX

BUTTERMERE'S vicar, parish council chairman and youth-hostel warden were among seven people arrested when Cumbria County Council began to paint double yellow lines through the Lake District village to prevent motorists blocking the road. Buttermere is an idyllic huddle of grey rooftops, drystone walls and farms surrounded by a high circle of fells and bisected by a narrow, winding road. It is a village in which so many motorists stop to admire the view in summer that police have to be called to untangle the traffic.

Recently the county council declared that double yellow lines on either side of the road through the village were the only answer. Last week workmen arrived to paint them. They immediately clashed with objec-

tors who believe that traffic comes along the road at times when Buttermere is under tourist siege and all that is needed.

"People come here to see beautiful countryside. They do not want these awful reminders of the town they're trying to escape from. We have complained about this policy of painting lines but the council have gone ahead regardless," Roland Knight, a guest-house owner, said.

He was arrested along with the Rev Michael Braithwaite, George Smith, a retired police superintendent and chairman of the local parish council, Tony Cresswell, the youth-hostel warden, and three other local residents. They were all accused of obstructing the council's line-laying machine.

Mr Knight remains unrepentant.

The council was drawing a line the village refused to toe. "The police say they do not have the manpower to keep putting down cones, but they found eight policemen to come and arrest us when we were objecting to these unsightly lines. They say they are acceptable because they are like the ones that have appeared outside the village by Crummock Water, a slightly narrower than normal and a shade of primrose yellow. It's a joke, they look dreadful."

Protesters argue that the council does not have permission from the National Trust to put the signs on the roadside to give the lines legal standing. "The National Trust owns that land and it has not given permission. It is not illegal to stop someone from doing something illegal," Mr Knight declared. But Bill

Cameron, chairman of Cumbria County Council's environment committee, insisted yesterday that when the weather improved the council workmen would be back with their machine to lay more lines.

"The police asked for a traffic management survey and we decided this was the only feasible answer," he said. "The police do not have the manpower to keep putting up bollards and then seeing that people obey them. If a vicar, retired police superintendent and a youth-hostel warden want to get themselves arrested I am not here to stop them. The forces of law and order will take their course."

Cumbria police said yesterday that a file on the incident would be prepared for the attention of the crown prosecutor.

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# British may be excluded from scientific breakthrough



Clarke warned that Britain could be left out

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN could be squeezed out of one of the most exciting fields of modern science by government chieftains, education and science minister Kenneth Clarke has been told.

James Hough, professor of physics and astronomy at Glasgow University, has written to Mr Clarke and to Sir David Phillips, chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, pointing out that a delay in funding the proposed Anglo-

German gravitational wave observatory could be seen by the Germans as a breach of faith, and might cut Britain out altogether.

On the strength of a commitment by the Science and Engineering Research Council to pay £5.5 million towards the observatory, the government of Lower Saxony has committed more than £7 million to help build it. The rest of the £30 million the observatory will cost will come from the ministry of research and technology in Bonn, and the Max Planck Society. The observatory,

called GEO, is intended to be one of a network of four designed to detect and pinpoint the most elusive signals from space, gravity waves, which are predicted by Einstein's theories but have yet to be observed. The network should consist of GEO, two American instruments, one on the east and one on the west coast, and a second European instrument, funded by the French and Italians, in Pisa. A minimum of three and ideally at least four separate instruments are needed to make an unambiguous discovery of gravity waves, and to pinpoint their source in space. Professor Hough fears that a delay of at least two years in funding the British part of GEO, announced before Christmas by the SERC, may encourage his German collaborators at the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics at Garching, near Munich, to produce a single European instrument in co-operation with the French and Italians. That would cut out Britain completely from the last unopened "window" on the universe. The decision was

forced on the SERC by the funding crisis which has been caused by high inflation and a low public spending settlement. The council is looking for savings of £40 million and has tried to find some of them by delaying projects like GEO.

The British end of GEO involves three teams: Professor Hough's at Glasgow, a group led by Professor Bernard Schutz at the University of Wales in Cardiff, and a team from the Rutherford Appleton laboratory in Berkshire led by Jim Hall. Detecting gravity waves,

which are believed to be emitted as all-but-imperceptible pulses by cataclysmic events in space such as supernova explosions, requires instruments of extraordinary sensitivity. GEO will consist of two evacuated stainless steel tubes three kilometres long and 1.4 metres wide, joined to form an L-shape. At the end of each arm will be a heavy weight, attached to a mirror. Laser light will travel up and down the pipes, bouncing off the mirrors until it is finally brought together to form an interference pattern.

The object is to detect the tiny movement of the mirrors caused by the passage of a gravity wave. This movement will be smaller than a millionth of a millionth of a millionth of a metre, equivalent to measuring a deviation of the Earth from its orbit by less than the width of a single hydrogen atom. Proving that gravity waves exist will do more than vindicate Einstein. It could even provide for the first time a direct and unambiguous measure of the size, and hence the age, of the universe.

## Tory rebels step up drive against black candidate

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

REBEL Conservatives in Cheltenham have redoubled their efforts to overturn the selection of John Taylor, a black barrister, as their prospective parliamentary candidate.

In a move that will cause further embarrassment to the Tory high command, eight of them signed an advertisement costing £195 on the front-page of their local newspaper seeking to rally support for their campaign against Mr Taylor.

The advertisement in the *Gloucestershire Echo* offers members of the 4,000-member local Tory association "fuller details" of the "confusion" and "procedural dispute" surrounding Mr Taylor's adoption at the beginning of the month.

Mr Taylor's opponents say that they already have the 50 signatures they need to reopen the selection procedure. They

want to force a special general meeting in the new year to reconsider Mr Taylor's choice.

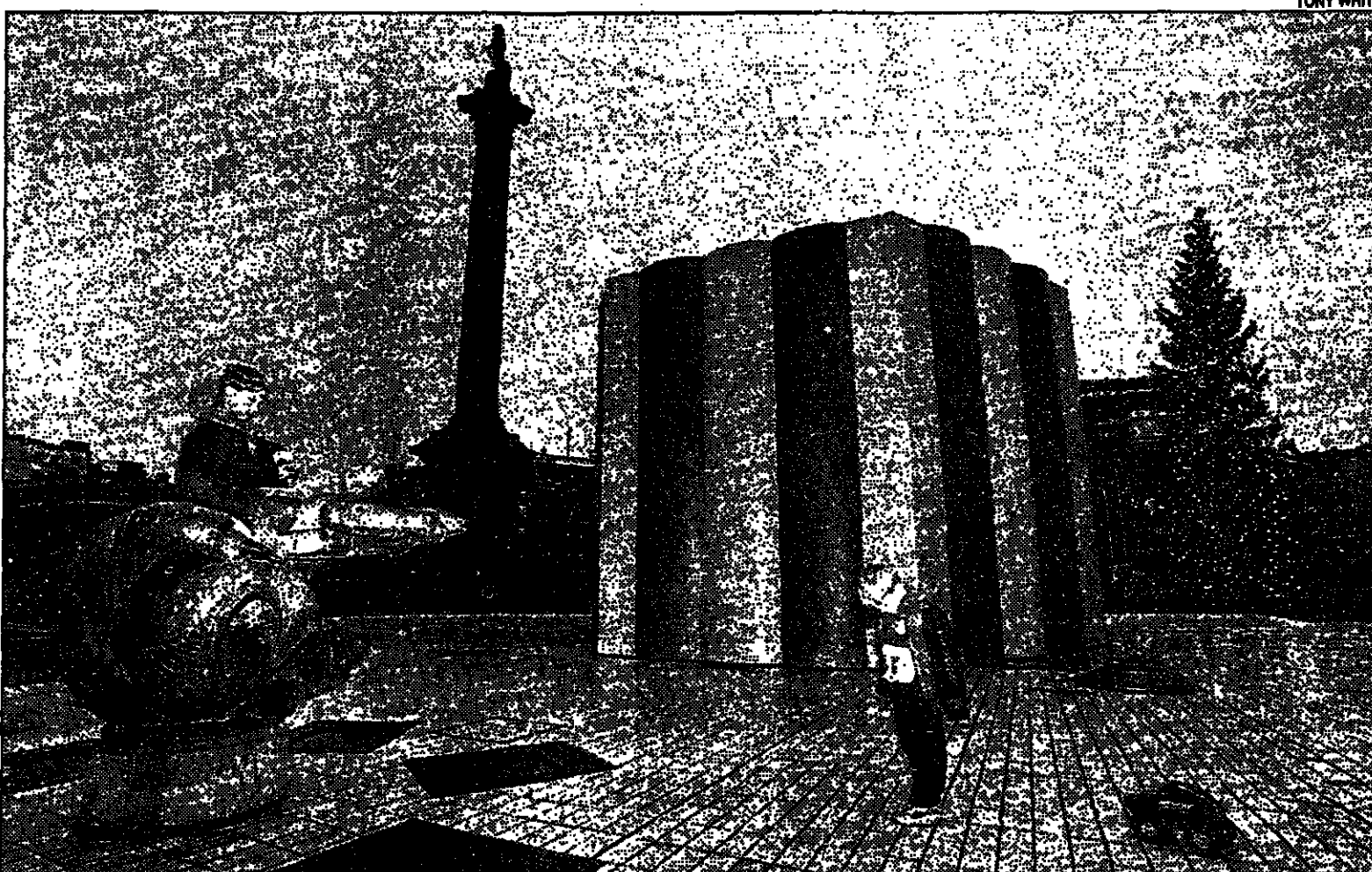
John Major and Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, have endorsed Mr Taylor's selection. William Galbraith, who described the candidate in insulting racial terms, has been expelled from the local party.

The advertisement is intended to strengthen the petition and to boost the turnout at the proposed emergency meeting to about 1,000 from the 200 who attended the initial gathering. It gives local Tories the names and telephone numbers of people to contact for a "printed summary of relevant background information".

Don Ward, one of the signatories, an airline pilot, said that the object of the exercise was to retain the seat for the Conservatives. "Many people for many reasons won't vote for him (Mr Taylor), some because they don't like the legal profession. Some people think he was pushed at us by the Central Office."

Monica Drinkwater, chairman of Cheltenham Conservatives, said last night she could not see the point of placing the advertisement. "I cannot discern what is at the back of it because any questions of procedure that have been raised have been answered."

Contact line for the rebels



Ready for New Year's eve: two brothers play in a deserted, boarded up Trafalgar Square, while Joan Sutherland prepares for her London farewell

## All set for hail and farewell

SCOTLAND Yard is advising people not to bring their cars but to use free public transport to get home after midnight if they come into central London for the new year celebrations. An estimated 1,800 police will be duty at Trafalgar Square this year.

The public is also being urged not to bring large sums

of money, to wear warm and comfortable clothing and keep alcohol intake to a reasonable level. Anyone carrying drinks will not be allowed beyond barriers round the square and anyone with any sort of can will also be stopped. Scotland Yard said police will deter or disperse anyone whose behaviour might spoil the enjoyment of others.

On the same night Dame Joan Sutherland, "La Stupenda", will be at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, for the last time to say farewell from the stage where she began her career. Yesterday she was preparing for the star guests to the production of Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. Her husband, Richard Bonynge, is to conduct the performance, which is being shown on BBC2.



STEPHEN MARKESON

New year parties, page 14  
Review, page 24

## Survey of station hotel

By ROBIN YOUNG

A TEAM of architects moved yesterday into the Midland Grand hotel, the ornate but largely derelict building that surmounts St Pancras station, to begin a survey.

The British Rail Property Board, which owns the building, said that the team would be on the site for the next six months. The architects, from Conservation Practice, have authority to carry out emergency repairs. When the survey and repairs are completed, the board will renew negotiations to transfer the building to the developer Speyhawk, which a year ago won planning permission to restore it as a five-star hotel.

The Midland Grand, completed by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1873 and closed as a hotel in 1935, was thought in its day to be the most splendid hotel in the British Empire.

Leading article, page 11

## Tepid response to Labour's plans

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

LABOUR's plans to reform the constitution, outlined in *The Times* yesterday, met with a lukewarm response last night from organisations seeking fundamental changes in the way in which Britain is governed.

Charter 88, the civil rights movement for constitutional reform, pointed out that the Labour party was not advocating a bill of rights and was still opposed to electoral reform and proportional representation (PR) at general elections.

Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrats' home affairs spokesman and a Scotsman, described them as "cold kale reheat" (cold cabbage reheated). The fundamental flaw, he said, was the failure to demand a written constitution with a full set of proposals safeguarding human rights by their entrenchment in a bill of rights. Under such a system, a supreme court would have the right to abolish legislation

that undermined fundamental rights and freedoms.

Labour offered no new guarantees and freedoms, and too much power would still reside with the prime minister, he said, and rejected Labour's assertion that its proposals were based on the American constitution.

PR yesterday threatened to reopen divisions in the Labour party as it emerged as an issue to be debated at the Scottish Labour party conference in Aberdeen in March.

The growing demand for some form of PR was turned aside when the leadership agreed to a study of electoral reform. The Scottish conference is to debate electoral reform and the method of election for the introduction north of the border will lead to its eventual use in Westminster elections.

Leading article, page 11

## Mozart magic serenades travel trade

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

TWO hundred years after he was consigned to a pauper's grave near Vienna, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is proving the ultimate crowd puller — and unexpected life-saver for both Britain's and Austria's hard-pressed travel industry.

By last night, however, they were receiving reports from travel agents around the country that early bookings were already 80 per cent ahead of the new target levels to Salzburg and 40 per cent up on the maximum they expected to send to Vienna. "We are already having to consider booking more hotel rooms and more seats on scheduled flights," a Thomson official, stunned by the continued popularity of The Master, said.

Austrian tourist officials, who have spent millions on promoting the bicentennial, were also overwhelmed with the response from British music lovers and were fielding a non-stop stream of calls for information on the festivals.

The enormous demand meant that Austria leapt to eighth place in the top ten list of early favourite destinations for Britons going abroad next year. Vienna and Salzburg are now not far behind the most popular resorts being booked for next summer.

As an added bonus for Mozart fans, the price of many short breaks in Austria has fallen in the second edition of brochures, with two nights in

Vienna in a two-star hotel starting at £199 including the airfare.

Meanwhile holidaymakers not, perhaps, interested in Mozart and his music, were flocking to book Florida and the Caribbean, according to early returns from the largest travel agent, Lunn Poly. It said Portugal is proving popular among holidaymakers in the South with a 60 per cent surge in bookings compared with last year.

Spain's tourism industry is also enjoying a boom, with bookings up 20 per cent since 1987, and since 1988 sales of double glazing have dropped by 34 per cent, heating controls by 20 per cent, and boilers and radiators by 25 per cent.

Source: The Times overseas travel guide. Austria: Salzburg £199, Vienna £249. Germany: Berlin £199, Frankfurt £249. France: Paris £199. Italy: Rome £199, Venice £249. Spain: Madrid £199, Barcelona £249. Portugal: Lisbon £199. Caribbean: Barbados £199, Jamaica £249. Florida: Orlando £199, Miami £249. USA: New York £199, Los Angeles £249.

Cost of Holiday/Flight Per Person (EXCLUDING INSURANCE)	Discount Per Person
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# Parents must face cruel choice over infant heart defects

THE death of Christy Strachan, at the age of 11 days, who failed to survive a heart transplant operation yesterday, highlights the cruel choices facing parents and doctors.

The tragic outcome also calls into question the determination of surgeons to continue with a procedure that they admit is not a cure, and whose long-term benefits are unproven.

Christy had hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a common congenital heart defect with which about 200 babies a year are born in Britain. The incurable condition means that the heart's main pumping chamber cannot provide an adequate blood supply to the body. Ultrasound scans in pregnancy can detect the syndrome, allowing mothers the option of an abortion. If the child is born, there are then only three unhappy choices.

According to Marc de Leval, the surgeon who performed Christy's operation at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London, most parents opt for no treatment, and resign themselves to the inevitable death of their baby, within a few days or weeks of birth. A few permit complex sur-

About 200 babies a year are born with a heart defect similar to Baby Christy's. Thomson Prentice assesses their prospects

gery, involving up to four operations over a period of many months, to reconstruct the heart, in the knowledge that the chances of survival are, at best, 50 per cent.

The others choose the road of transplantation, the grueling process of a search for a donor heart from another doomed infant, the cold mechanics of the operation, and hope that their baby will be one of the 80 per cent who survive for at least a year.

"These are very difficult choices and the parents often ask us what we would do if it was our child," Mr de Leval said yesterday. "Personally I would prefer not to give an answer. I believe that the operation should be done if the parents, when given all the facts, decide that is what they want. I also am sure it is right for surgeons to continue these transplants.

"We should not be discouraged. We can learn from failures as well as successes. We should persevere because in ten years' time we may have made great progress. But we and the parents of these babies have to remember that a new heart is not a cure for this condition."

Christy, of New Barnet, north London, was by far the youngest baby to undergo the operation at Great Ormond Street. Christy's operation began at 9.40pm on Thursday after a suitable donor heart, from a baby girl aged four weeks, became available and was flown to London from a Merseyside hospital. The heart was successfully transplanted, but failed to function fully when life-support equipment was withdrawn. Its performance improved for about five hours, but then gradually failed to a stage beyond which Christy could not be resuscitated.

He died at 10.25am yesterday. Mr de Leval said the new heart had been damaged by lack of oxygen in the few hours between its removal from the donor infant and its transplantation.

Six years ago in London, Hollic Roffey, ten days old, became the world's youngest heart transplant recipient. The operation by Maged Yacoub, a leading cardiac surgeon at the National Heart Hospital, seemed successful, but 18 days later she died of respiratory problems.

Last year Professor Yacoub carried out a similar operation on a week-old baby, but again death followed within a few days. However, Kaylee Davidson, a baby girl given a new heart by surgeons in Newcastle upon Tyne at the age of five weeks, is now three years old, the longest survivor in Britain of the procedure.

Professor Yacoub, Mr de Leval and most other heart specialists passionately believe that transplants for babies must continue and the early failures will be outnumbered by the successes in the years ahead.

They point out that several hundred heart transplants for older children and for adults are now routinely performed in Britain.

There are concerns, however, over the long-term consequences of grafting a new heart into a baby. The side-effects of powerful anti-rejection drugs that need to be taken for the rest of the child's life are not fully charted. Other operations, including a second or even third transplant, may become necessary.

"Nobody knows what will happen in ten or 15 years to these children," Mr de Leval said. "The parents are aware of that, and they have to make the decision. It is not easy for them, or for us."

Operation on Christy, page 1

## Inquiry faces status riddle

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard and the Home Office could face a constitutional quandary over the West Yorkshire police enquiry into allegations of impropriety by a Metropolitan police assistant commissioner.

Peter Nobes, chief constable of West Yorkshire, is investigating allegations that Wyn Jones, normally in charge of training and personnel, was involved in improper police work for Asil Nadir, head of the collapsed Polly Peck group. Mr Jones denies any impropriety.

Central to the difficulties created by the enquiry is the confusion over Mr Jones's status. He is one of six senior officers in positions thought to be unique in British policing. The public may accept offi-

cers of his rank as policemen, but technically he may be in a category of public official holding power by royal warrant. Some Scotland Yard officers believe that the



Jones: denies allegations of impropriety

commissioner and his deputy and four assistant commissioners are of a standing similar to that of a High Court judge. Others argue that they are simply senior policemen. The point is, however, that Mr Nobes might be considered to be of a lower rank.

The assistant commissioner's status would also make it difficult to frame a disciplinary breach, because he is not subject to the same regulations as an ordinary policeman. If there is a breach Scotland Yard and the Home Office will be left to work out a punishment. Mr Jones cannot be subjected to a gradation of police punishments for junior ranks, ranging from an admonishment to a fine or reduction in rank.

## RSC to do own merchandising

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Shakespeare Company has parted with its merchandising partner, the Charities Advisory Trust (CAT), after only six months despite a 400 per cent increase in profit. The bank account holding the profits, believed to be over £40,000, has been frozen while the company and the trust negotiate the dissolution of the partnership.

"We have decided to draw all our operations under our direct management rather than contract any work out," the company said last night. "We decided to terminate the partnership after the appointment of our new general administrator, Jonathan Pope, in line with the new structure under Adrian Noble, who takes over as artistic director in April. Mr Pope joins us next month. We are very grateful to CAT for what they have been able to do." William Wilkinson, the RSC's financial director, was not available for comment.

The trust, which runs the

successful Museum Store in Covent Garden, selling items from museums all over the world, and the merchandising for the Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum at a profit of £50,000, would not comment last night.

It is understood that the RSC's merchandising profit of £11,000 in the financial year 1989-90 increased to more than £40,000 in the six months after the joint company was set up in April this year. CAT introduced new lines in tee-shirts, ties, cards and diaries. By comparison, the National Theatre's shops took £438,000 in 1989-90, of which £65,000 was profit. So far this year the National has taken £323,000.

A quinquennial appraisal of the RSC carried out by the Arts Council last summer is understood to have given qualified support to the company's artistic achievements and plans, but to have recommended that merchandising should be looked into.

حكاية من الاصل



Marc de Leval, the surgeon, after the operation: "We can learn from failures as well as successes. But we have to remember that a new heart is not a cure"

## HM Inspectors catch up with Summerhill

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE chase has been on for 60 years, but the bureaucrats have finally caught up with Summerhill, the do-as-you-please school where children attend only the lessons they want to.

The pupils also decide on discipline and the way in which the school is run. "It is very hard to organise a school and attend every lesson," Zoe Neill, the headmistress, said. She runs the school at Leiston, Suffolk, opened by her father A.S. Neill in 1927 on the basis that children know best. He was the first man to do away with the cane and encouraged other schools to follow his example.

Throughout his life, he fought the educational establishment. Now his daughter has been given six months to comply with instructions from the Inspectorate of Schools or face closure.

Yesterday, she dismissed the threat. "They have asked us to find some more space for the classrooms and two extra toilets. The only problem is to find room for them." The inspectors have not been too critical of the educational achievements of the school.

They praise the relationship between the staff and the 69 boys and girls, aged between 5 and 17, even though they do not always attend the scheduled lessons. "Although, at any one time, many are not attending lessons, when they do, their commitment to learning is wholehearted," the inspectors said. About half the children come from overseas:

27 from Japan, and eight from France, Germany, Indonesia, Morocco, Spain and the US. Most of the pupils who stay at the school until 16 achieve four or five GCSE passes and go on to further education, but academic success is not the main aim of the school, which stands by the rules of its founder: "We set out to make a school in which we should allow children to be themselves. In order to do this we renounce all discipline, all suggestion, all moral training, all religious instruction."

Nothing much has changed since the school was opened in 1927 and today's report from the inspectors remarks that, in 1990, "some aspects of conventional school provision are absent".

"They add that this means that the pupils are well aware that they need not attend lessons".

The school, which charges boarding fees of up to £2,220 a year, does have its rules: nobody under the age of 16 is allowed to smoke or skateboard in the town without a special exemption; children are not allowed to drink alcohol; pets not cared for properly will be confiscated; and knives must not be taken into town.

There are also fines for misbehaviour: 10p for hitting, punching and kicking, writing on walls, riding a bicycle or skateboard without permission; 25p for harassing kitchen staff; and £25 for setting off the fire alarm.

## Over 1,000 at service for six lost fishermen

By KERRY GILL

THE six crewmen of the fishing boat Premier, lost off Shetland before Christmas, were remembered yesterday in an inter-denominational service attended by more than 1,000 mourners in the village of Hopesman on the Moray coast.

Fishing communities from all over Scotland sent representatives to the memorial service at the village. The Church of Scotland church was filled and the service was relayed to village halls where other mourners gathered.

The men who drowned when the 74ft trawler was swamped by mountainous seas were the skipper Ned Edwards, aged 36, his brothers, Joe, aged 31, and Neil, aged 24, John Ross, aged 45, Billy Main, aged 33, and Sandy Main, aged 26. Their bodies have not been found. The tragedy left five widows and 11 fatherless children.

The family mourners were led into the church by John and Peggy Edwards, the couple who lost all their three sons. The Rev Martin Keane, of the United Free Church in Lossiemouth, where Mr Edwards is an elder, said: "We remember six men and their courage."

There has been no trace of David Main, aged 70, a lobster fisherman, also from Hopesman, who vanished over Christmas. His boat is believed to have been swamped.

## Hastings chess goes electronic

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE first round of the Foreign and Colonial chess tournament at Hastings started yesterday with a swift victory by the Danish veteran grandmaster Bent Larsen.

Playing with the white pieces against the London grandmaster Daniel King, Larsen established a space advantage in the opening. He expertly converted this into a direct attack against the black king and forced his opponent's resignation on the 34th move.

The other three games in the tournament, category 14 on the World Chess Federation scale, the highest ever achieved in the United Kingdom, were all still in progress. Grandmaster Murray Chandler, of London, had survived a fierce onslaught from Iceland's highest ranked player Helgi Olafsson, and seemed to have emerged with a safe extra knight. A win here would make Chandler joint leader with Larsen.

Jon Speelman, defending with black against Tony Kosten, was pressing for a win in an endgame of rooks and pawns, though in theory Kosten should be able to hold the position to a draw.

The final game still in contention from the first round was between Gyula Sax with white (from Hungary), and his Russian opponent, Yevgeny Barbev. The game had reached a complex situation in which both sides were fighting fiercely for the full point.

The tournament was declared open by Daniel Johnson of *The Times*, who spoke of Hastings's long chess tradition in his inaugural address. The tournament continues at the Cinque Ports Hotel until January 13.

This year an important innovation to help spectators to follow all the games has been the installation of electronic screens directly over all boards, which are linked to micro-processors in every chess piece. As soon as a move is made by a player, that move is flashed up on the screen above.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### A literary love affair

For Byron it was "a poetical place and classical". Proust went there and found "my dream had turned into my address". It was the setting for Thomas Mann's best-known novel and Robert Browning wanted to build a tower "whence I can see Venice at every hour of the day". Henry James went there seven times and took Ruskin's Stones of Venice with him.

Ronald Hayman traces the often stormy literary love affair with the "Bride of the Sea". Travel - tomorrow in *The Sunday Times*

### Did Jerry gatecrash?

Did Jerry Hall really gatecrash the Duchess of Devonshire's party? And who was the Spanish beauty who threw food at the Valentine Ball? Our society diarists take you behind the scenes at the best bashes of the year.

Style - tomorrow in *The Sunday Times*

## Computer virus battle 'is being lost'

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE fight to control computer "viruses" - rogue programs that can damage sensitive electronic files - is being lost as programmers from eastern Europe, who believe they are being poorly rewarded in the wake of political and economic liberalisation, take their revenge on computer systems throughout the world.

Yesterday, it emerged that more than 300 are in circulation after a surge of computer virus writing in eastern Europe. Last year, about eight computer viruses were at large, and experts predict that, by the end of

next year, the number will have reached 1,000 strains. Edward Widing, a leading computer virus investigator and editor of *The Virus Bulletin*, said: "We are losing the battle."

He feared a possible attack over Christmas and new year from a Polish electronic virus called Choinka, which is believed to have two versions. One is a nuisance version that consumes processing time by displaying Christmas trees and a festive message.

However, a pernicious variant may also be at large that can infiltrate a computer through an "infected" disc or be "downloaded" via telephone lines. It may have entered British computers

already, and be waiting to be triggered. The severity of the threat emerged at a conference of computer virus experts in Hamburg.

More than 150 new viruses, mainly from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland and the Balkans, have been brought back to Britain from the conference and are being disassembled.

Western experts say that the unprecedented growth undermines growing satisfaction among talented eastern European programmers, who believe they are being poorly rewarded in the wake of political and economic liberalisation in countries where most computer systems are state-owned.

Most of the early viruses were mischievous and often written by young people who wanted to confront "the system".

The cost of detecting and removing rogue programs and of lost data and computer downtime has been estimated already at £5 billion world wide, and is likely to rise with the sudden surge of east European viruses. Many of the latest viruses seem to be designed to confuse systems and damage the computer software and hardware in new, and potentially catastrophic, ways.

Meanwhile, the process of identifying viruses and producing scanning devices that can detect individual strains is slow and painstaking.

## LAPHROAIG



Built on a bed of peat, it is the roads on Islay that do the travelling. As the highly absorbent peat takes in water, it expands and forces the roads to rise and fall. It is this same peat that is cut, dried and then burnt in kilns to malt the barley when making Laphroaig. Giving Laphroaig a distinctive rich and smokey taste that has remained unchanged for well over 150 years. As for the roads? Well, they have their ups and downs.

SINGLE ISLAY MALT. AS UNIQUE AS THE ISLAND ITSELF.





# Processing of poll tax defaulters 'not a matter for JPs'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES are to tell ministers that they do not wish their courts to be the forum for granting orders so local authorities can proceed with enforcement measures against poll tax defaulters.

More than one million people who have failed to pay the community charge are estimated to have come through magistrates' courts in England and Wales for a hearing and a ruling that the local authority be granted a "liability order".

However, the Magistrates' Association, which represents the 28,000 lay justices, argue

that their role in these hearings is more administrative than judicial. Second, they argue that non-payment of the community charge is a civil debt and as such should be dealt with, at that stage at least, in a different setting, such as a tribunal or county court.

Joyce Rose, chairman of the association, said: "We have already been making representations about this, not just to the Home Office but to other bodies. We are not making a political statement about the charge itself. Our concern is that this is not the

job we should be doing." She said that magistrates were also concerned that they were coming in for criticism over their role in the granting of the orders.

"There is really no judicial input at this stage. People come before us, expecting us to be able to do something, and to make some amendment as to how much they should pay or how they should pay. But in general all we can do, if the procedure has been satisfactorily followed by the local authority, is to grant the order. This then enables the authority to proceed to enforce payment and send in the bailiffs or make an attachment of earnings order."

Informally, the magistrates have made their views known in a number of quarters and they are now considering the next step of more formal representations, possibly to the Lord Chancellor or the home secretary. One option is that a special tribunal could be set up.

The Association of District Councils has criticised courts for failing to set aside enough time. Ideally, the association maintains, courts need to earmark one entire court, for two whole days a week, to deal with the cases.

Most of this year's default cases are moving into the second phase, when cases where the local authority has been unsuccessful come before the court for a decision. Mrs Rose emphasised that it was right for the courts to be involved at this later stage, when they had power to fine the defaulter, remit all or part of the charge or imprison for default. "This is then a proper hearing, where the defaulter has a chance to put his defence and we have power to take various steps."

## Charge on forces decision criticised

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A PROPOSAL to deduct poll tax payments from servicemen's pay, avoiding the spectacle of prosecuting defaulters, was rejected for "spurious ideological reasons", according to a senior Tory MP.

Michael Mates, MP for Hampshire East, said that the Ministry of Defence had offered to levy a standard military poll tax on service personnel, which would be paid to the environment department as a lump sum for distribution among local authorities. A similar arrangement was used for the collection of domestic rates from servicemen.

"The environment department turned that down because those in charge at the time said that a serviceman must pay his share wherever he happens to be," Mr Mates said. His disclosure, in a hitherto unreported section of the Consolidated Fund Bill

debate before Christmas, is bound to embarrass senior Conservatives. At present, service personnel are required to pay poll tax at the full rate to the local authority in whose area they are stationed.

Mr Mates said that no explanation for refusing to change the system had been given "save the most spurious of ideological reasons which were trotted out repeatedly, that the servicemen must be treated exactly the same as his civilian counterpart".

He said that the principle was unsound and unfair. Unlike civilians, servicemen had no choice over where they were posted. They could be sent to a high poll tax area and given no choice but to pay.

Robert Key, junior environment minister, said that service personnel must pay towards the cost of local services.



Under threat: Richard Brewer, a trawler skipper, foresees a grim future under European Commission restrictions

## Trawlermen fight EC 8-day fishing ban

IN THE wheelhouse of the Ocean Charm, a 60ft trawler moored in Whitby harbour, North Yorkshire, Richard Brewer, its skipper, surveyed an array of electronic gadgetry that has changed the working lives of modern fishermen.

Even the familiar paper charts have been succeeded by an electronic colour plotter that will display on a screen minute details of the fishing ground in the Forth, more than 200 miles off England's northeast coast.

Working on the trawlers, however, remains one of the most dangerous of occupations, in spite of the electronic aids, and trawlermen like Mr Brewer believe that

regulations introduced by the European Commission to conserve fish stocks in the North Sea will make their lives far more risky and threaten their financial future.

From February 1, hundreds of boats in Scotland and along the east coast of England will have to spend eight consecutive days each month in harbour rather than in the fishing grounds.

"What that means," Mr Brewer said, "is that men will have to meet a month's expenses for their boat from only two or three weeks' fishing time. The financial pressures will lead to boats going to sea in bad weather conditions when they would normally stay in port, and that could lead to tragedies."

Fishing and the sea has been a way of life in Whitby for centuries. Today, it has a modern trawler fleet of 22 boats, most family owned, employing 130 crew, and 30 smaller cobles - flat-bottomed fishing boats.

The larger trawlers, which fish mainly for cod, will be hit by the new regulations. Around 70 English trawlers will be affected by the eight-day laying-up rule.

The decision has angered the Whitby trawlermen,

Fishermen say new regulations to conserve fish stocks will put lives, and their future, at risk. Peter Davenport reports

who see it as a threat to their livelihood and traditional work pattern. Most of all, they resent the increased danger to the trawler crews that they believe will result from the new law.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, has been accused of ignoring their interests. If there are deaths as a result of the legislation, he will be "a widow maker", the fishermen say.

A meeting of fishermen in the port was held over Christmas after details of the scheme were announced. Only local crews were expected to attend, but fishermen from the Tweed to the Humber turned up to express their anger at the move.

A larger gathering, involving fishermen from all over the country, will be held this

weekend, at which positive action to combat the new legislation will be discussed. Possible options include a blockade of important ports or a fishing boycott in which all boats would tie up for the same eight days, so that no fish would be caught at all for that period.

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, fears that an eight-day ban will gradually be increased, possibly to 15 days a month. It says non-compliance is the most effective way of fighting the restrictions.

Local skippers argue that the ban will not help conservation efforts, because the boats will simply try to catch more fish when they are at sea to make the most of their restricted time.

Mr Brewer, who is vice-chairman of the Anglo-Scottish Fish Producers' Organisation, representing 250 boats, said that his local fleet had been caught up in legislation designed to curtail the activities of larger vessels that mainly operate out of Scotland. Whitby was paying the price for its efficiency, he said, and the new legislation would inhibit its flexibility. "We are as keen as anybody to

conserve fish stock, and realise that something has to be done. After all, the fish are our livelihood and, for many of us, that of our children as well, but this is not the way to do it."

Mr Brewer said that he has to make £2,000 a week to meet fixed running expenses, and twice that to ensure a reasonable wage for his crew of four.

Many fishermen believe that the government should introduce a scheme that pays men to de-commission old vessels, which would reduce the size of the fleet and the catch.

"By forcing us to stay in port for eight consecutive days the legislation does not take account of all the time we lose anyway because of bad weather or breakdown," Mr Brewer said.

"It will mean, in the worst cases, that we will be trying to earn a month's money in two weeks' actual fishing time, and that could lead to skippers taking decisions influenced more by financial pressure than by safety."

"We have sat and accepted too much for too long in this industry and now we are going to have to take action to get this legislation changed."

## History lessons to focus on dates and places

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

NAMES, dates and places will be at the root of all history teaching in the national curriculum to be introduced into schools next September. It comes after a fierce debate between traditionalists and the progressive educationists, who had argued that understanding was more important than simply learning facts.

In its final recommendations, the National Curriculum Council accepted the demand from John MacGregor, the former education secretary, that knowledge should be tested independently. The final report of the history working party published last April had rejected that demand, saying that knowledge should be a part of specific courses.

Duncan Graham, the council's chairman and chief executive, said: "Attainment will be firmly based on learning

historical information. Pupils will need to acquire precise knowledge about key events, people and dates from each of the periods studied.

"The teaching of history has been the subject of intense de-



MacGregor: demanded independent testing

## What children will be expected to know

At 7, children should be able to retell the story of the Gunpowder Plot; select from a list of reasons to explain why in Victorian times railways became more important than canals; recognise the difference between a fairy tale character and an historical personality; recognise that the statement "Alfred was King of Wessex" is a fact and that "Alfred was a good man" is a point of view; talk about what they see in an old photograph; show how museum exhibits can help to explain how people cooked before they had gas or electricity.

At 11, list the causes and consequences of the fall of the Roman empire; give a concise account based on historical sources of how two German families viewed the rise of the Nazis; show that they understand that the Magna Carta is often mistakenly remembered as a charter that laid down the rights of ordinary people; show how different ways of selecting information can lead to different interpretations of social change; show how

information from a visit to an old house can be used to reconstruct the way of life of those who lived there.

At 14, show how relations between Eastern Europe and the USSR have changed since 1945; show how economic hardship led some French people to support the 1789 revolution; comment on how far an account of the Cold War is likely to have been influenced by the background and political views of the writer; comment on written and visual sources relating to the fall of the Bastille in 1789.

At 16, give reasons why leading suffragettes differed in their views; discuss why it is difficult to generalise about changes in British attitudes towards the European Community; show how and why the recent history of China has been interpreted and used differently in Hong Kong and the people's republic; show how a US account of the building of the Berlin Wall reveals US attitudes towards the event but little about why the wall was built.

bate for the last 18 months. This report provides the means of raising expectations and standards and establishes a balance between the knowledge all pupils should have and the skills they need to use it."

The council supports most of the proposals made by Mr MacGregor and has agreed that the title of the first attainment target, understanding history in its setting, should be changed to knowledge and understanding of history, and that it should have twice the value of each of the other two targets: interpretations of history and the use of historical sources. The fourth target proposed by the working party, organising and communicating the results of historical study, will be combined with the other three.

After criticism that the original curriculum concentrated too heavily on English history, the council now recommends "a broad and balanced history curriculum, based on the British Isles - not just England - but with substantial attention to the rest of Europe and the world."

Mr Graham said: "British, European, world and local history should be carefully related to provide pupils with a systematic introduction to history."

Teachers are also to be given more scope to exercise their professional judgment. "Without any loss of rigour," Mr Graham said.

From age five to seven children will learn from their own experiences and family about events more distant in time and place. From seven to 11, lessons will be based on key events and everyday life during important periods in British history, though all children will have to study ancient Greece, local history, long-term themes such as ships and seafarers, and life in a society outside Europe. From 11 to 14, they will move on to the Roman Empire, Britain from 1066 to 1300, and the making of the United Kingdom. From 14 to 16, pupils will study a broad range of major themes in the 20th century about Britain, Europe and the world.

## Adultery case vicar to appeal

The vicar of Henfield, West Sussex, who was found guilty in November of adultery with his curate's wife and another parishioner and was stripped of his living and vicarage home, is to appeal.

The Rev Tom Tyler's appeal will be heard by the Court of Arches, the consistory court for the province of Canterbury. "The appeal will be heard as soon as possible," a church spokesman said yesterday.

## Palace intruder

Eugene Derek Smith, aged 32, an unemployed Irishman who climbed over a Buckingham Palace wall to talk to the Queen about a woman he was in love with, was conditionally discharged by Bow Street magistrates, central London.

## Footballer fined

Alexander Rac, a Millwall footballer, of Meopham, Kent, was fined £250 and banned for 15 months by Horseferry Road magistrates' court, London, yesterday for drink driving. His alcohol reading was more than twice the limit.

## Murder charge

Steve Huxtable, aged 40, landlord of a public house at Truro, Cornwall, was remanded by Liskeard magistrates yesterday accused of murdering his wife Elizabeth.

## Limited power

Efforts by Southern Electricity to restore power to homes cut off by bad weather at Christmas were hampered when off-duty staff could not volunteer to help because they feared they would be over the drink-drive limit.

## Child charge

Sami Rafiq, aged 26, a taxi driver, of Forest Gate, east London, was remanded in custody by Thames magistrates, accused of abducting a girl aged eight on Boxing day.

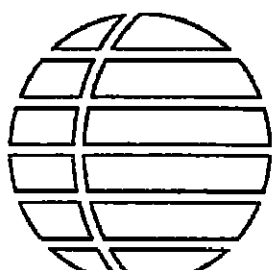
## Falklands visit

Relatives of Argentine servicemen killed in the Falklands war are to visit their graves near Port Stanley, capital of the islands, in February.



Ten people shot dead in an English town. The killer is her husband. For Kathy Wakeman the nightmare has just begun.

A 2 HOUR FILM. 9.20 TONIGHT ON ITV.



CENTRAL

CENTRAL FILMS presents THE WIDOWMAKER by JEREMY BROOK  
Starring ANNABELLE APSON ALUN ARMSTRONG DAVID MORRISSEY KENNETH WELSH  
Music by RACHEL PORTMAN Executive Producer TED CHILDS Produced by DEBORAH KER Directed by JOHN MADDEN



## Police chief sacked as Peking announces death for pornography

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

IN A renewed law and order campaign, the Chinese government yesterday dismissed the head of the police force and minister of public security, Wang Fang, and announced that pornographers and drug smugglers will face the death penalty.

Mr Wang, aged 70, has never been considered a liberal and has presided since 1987 over an increasingly harsh internal security system. But during the June 1989 demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, he was considered to have lost control of his own police force.

No reason has been given for his dismissal — one rarely is — but it is believed to be part of the continuing purge of officials who proved unreliable during last year's anti-government demonstrations.

Mr Wang has taken long leaves of absence and has appeared only rarely at public functions. It is surprising that it has taken so long for his fate to be sealed, but the delay in his dismissal seems to reflect a desire among China's leaders to carry out their purge as gradually as possible in order to maintain their carefully orchestrated facade of unity.

It may, however, also signify resistance within the corridors of power to the unremitting hard line. Diplomats believe that despite the sacking of several high-level leaders, many of those on the Central Committee still remain loyal to the ousted general secretary, Zhao Ziyang. Earlier this year the

People's Armed Police, a paramilitary organisation under the army's control, was also purged, with both the leader and political commissar replaced by hardline loyalists.

Mr Wang also holds the position of first political commissar in the PAP. No announcement has been made of his removal from that post but he is not expected to keep it.

His replacement as police chief is Tao Siyu, aged 55, until now one of Mr Wang's deputies. On the same day, Peking announced the resignation of the minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Zheng Tuobin, aged 66, and his replacement by his deputy Li Lanqing. Again no reasons were given.

Mr Wang has been sacked in the midst of one of the most vicious anti-crime campaigns in his career. He has repeatedly quoted the country's "grim" crime statistics and warned of the consequences. He and Qiao Guai, the member of the Politburo standing committee in overall control of the police and state security, have promised in recent months to "deal a severe blow" to criminals.

Every day newspapers report executions, often for burglary or fraud, not for crimes of violence. At Peking's courthouse large red ticks are painted proudly across execution posters when the sentence has been carried out. These posters are now stuck one on top of each other as the space runs out and the

number of executions increases.

Mr Wang had spoken months before last June of the approach of mass unrest on a dangerous scale. A soft spot for demonstrators is almost unthinkable in Mr Wang; rather, his inefficiency brought about his downfall.

For long periods last summer Peking's police were ineffectual as the students swarmed to Tiananmen Square, appearing to be too intimidated by the crowds to keep order, and allowing students to take over the direction of traffic. At other times, police cadets joined in the demonstrations.

Recently Richard Schifter, the US assistant secretary of state for human rights, visited China to hold talks with officials there, including the police. While it was a sizeable concession on the part of China to let the talks go ahead at all, the visit has made no palpable difference to the rate of arrests and executions, or indeed to the rhetoric in the newspapers against the western concept of human rights.

한국인들



No surrender: Park Bong-sun holds a pistol to his head beside Shin Kwang-jae. They shot themselves dead.

## Korean fugitives commit suicide

From AGENCIES IN SEOUL

TWO escaped South Korean prisoners killed themselves with a stolen revolver in front of police yesterday to avoid being recaptured. A third fugitive gave himself up, police said.

Park Bong-sun, aged 30, and Shin Kwang-jae, aged 21, shot themselves dead when armed police approached in helicopters and rubber boats across a lake outside the provincial city of Taejeon, about 60 miles south of Seoul, police said. The third fugitive, aged 17, was caught near the lake. When discovered by police, he asked for food and gave himself up, police said.

The three convicts escaped from a prison in the southwestern city of Chonju early on Thursday morning. Brandishing a knife, they snatched a pistol from a policeman when stopped by two officers early yesterday in Taejeon. A police officer was stabbed and seriously injured.

The escapes then fled into mountains around Taechong lake but were trapped by a dozen marines on the edge of the lake.

## China 'arming Khmer Rouge' despite UN pact

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ARANYAPRATHET, THAILAND

CHINA is still supplying military aid to Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas, despite claiming to have halted shipments months ago, Western sources say.

"The Khmer Rouge are loading trucks and trucks of new Chinese ammunition," one Western intelligence official said. Other sources at this Thai border town and elsewhere along the Cambodian frontier said this week that the Chinese were preparing fresh deliveries of ammunition, in anticipation of a government offensive against the guerrillas.

China is the main backer of the communist Khmer Rouge, and of two other guerrilla groups fighting the government which the Vietnamese installed in Phnom Penh after invading the country in 1978. The Khmer Rouge, which was ousted from power, is the strongest group.

China said it had stopped military assistance after the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, including China, adopted a peace plan in late August. "Since the five mem-

ber countries of the security council adopted the five documents on Cambodia, China has not provided any military assistance, including weapons, to the Cambodian resistance," China's foreign ministry spokesman, Li Zhaoxing, said last month.

The guerrillas have supported the United Nations plan, which calls for significant UN involvement in the country's administration after a truce and the holding of UN-supervised elections. But the Vietnamese-installed government has rejected key elements of the plan.

With peace talks stalled, fighting has intensified in western Cambodia in the past month, and government forces are preparing an offensive in the approaching dry season, according to Western intelligence and guerrilla sources. They say the government is supported by Vietnamese troops who have secretly returned to Cambodia disguised as Cambodian government soldiers, although Vietnam says it withdrew all troops from Cambodia in September, 1989.

## Aquino seeks deal with insurgents

From VAUDINE ENGLAND IN MANILA

PRESSURE is growing on President Aquino to achieve what she hopes will be the lasting legacy of her rule: an end to the communist insurgency in the Philippines.

The communists grew in strength and influence under Marcos, her predecessor who was overthrown in 1986. Mrs Aquino hopes to put an end to this perennial problem by either eliminating the communists as a military force or legalising them.

The latest round of peace talks failed to materialise this week. But this was taken as a good sign by negotiators involved.

"The government wanted time to pursue its own initiatives," said a source close to the talks. He said the government was sending emissaries to The Netherlands for talks with the legal front of the Communist party of the Philippines, the National Democratic Front.

The front's international representative there is the self-exiled Luis Jalandoni, who yesterday asked the government to free six jailed rebel leaders so they could serve as negotiators. Their names were not given.

He said human rights



Aquino: hopes to leave a lasting legacy of peace

should be at the top of the agenda. These talks are considered more significant than those with the Manila-based group of peace advocates, who are not members of the Communist party, but act as intermediaries between the party and the government.

"Both the government and the military are feeling the pressure now," said the source. He was referring to the deadline of May 1992, when new elections will mark the end of President Aquino's term of office. Discussion of the possible legalisation of the Communist party must make progress before then if Mrs Aquino is to claim an end to the insurgency.

Those involved in the legal and underground groups connected to the 21-year communist insurgency insist that the potential for peace stems from the weakness of the government, not from the weakness of the communists.

"The left feels it is in a better position now than it was in 1986," said Ena Rosales, a senior member of Bayan, a radical left-wing movement.

"Recently the way the economic crisis has intensified, from the point of view of the government or even the conservative church, the peace question has been broadened to pour water on increasing unrest."

Mrs Aquino's government tried to bring the communists in from the cold in 1986-7, but neither the left nor the military was ready for conciliation. Since then, the military has been distracted by a series of coup attempts from within its own ranks, and the communists' armed wing, the New Peoples' Army, has been riven by internal debate about the means of effecting a communist revolution.

## Swiss free Marcos cash

Manila — President Aquino yesterday hailed a Swiss decision to lift the freeze on millions of dollars kept there by the family of Ferdinand Marcos, the former president, as a "victory for the Filipino people". Switzerland's Federal Court ruled that \$330 million (£175 million) in Swiss bank accounts should be returned. But it stipulated that before the money could be sent back a Philippine court must, within a year, open proceedings for the return of the money and order its confiscation. (Reuters)

## Thai charge

Bangkok — Worawit Weerabornvong, the owner of a lorry carrying liquefied gas that killed 89 people and injured 44 others on September 24 in Thailand's worst road accident, has been charged with negligence, a criminal court official said here. (AFP)

## Tokyo reshuffle

Tokyo — Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, has agreed with leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic party to reshuffle his cabinet today in an apparent move to bolster his position rather than make significant policy changes. (Reuters)

## MP arrested

Bangkok — A Thai parliamentarian, Dusit Sophicha, has been arrested on charges of extortion a few days after the prime minister, Chuan Chuanavan, vowed to sue him for slander, the national police chief said. (AFP)

## Chun returns

Seoul — The disgraced former president of South Korea, Chun Doo Hwan will return to his old house in the capital during the weekend, ending his two-year rural exile. Mr Chun and his wife, Lee Soon-ja, went into exile in the 14th-century Buddhist Paektam temple in November 1988. (AP)

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# Rushdie to the rescue

Clifford Longley

Salman Rushdie's conflict with the Muslim world was indeed a family quarrel, as he called it yesterday in *The Times*. As a Muslim problem it has found a Muslim solution: Mr Rushdie's return to the faith into which he was born. In a conflict between Muslim demands and those of secular western society, however, there is a danger of this Muslim solution being used as a bad example. Not all conflicts between Muslims and others can be resolved by the others becoming Muslims. There must be other answers too.

The paradox of Islam is that it knows how to treat minorities — its record of tolerance is, in the long term, better than Christianity's — but it does not know how to be a minority.

In principle, Islam makes no distinction between church and state, between temporal and spiritual. The ability to make that distinction has been valuable in helping Christianity to adjust to pluralism, although it has exaggerated a tendency to mind-body dualism which was innate in Christianity. But the rules of Islam, the *sharia*, are also the rules by which an ideal Muslim society should be governed, so such a society is by definition a theocracy, and there is no material-spiritual dichotomy in its ideology. Here the Muslim world divides into two. The fundamentalists for whom an uncritical literal application of the *sharia* is the only option are bound to find living in the West almost intolerable. In Britain, their response has been to try to create a Muslim state within a state that is outside British society and law, part instead of the Muslim "nation", the *umma*, where the *sharia* can be applied.

There have been demands for a special Muslim family law, under which an area of personal life would be roped off from state legislation and left to the religious authorities. Though fundamentalists, their supporters are by no means all fanatics: many are quite prepared to argue the case with the legislators and meanwhile abide by state law. The model for their Muslim family law is the way the Koran grants an equivalent dispensation to Christians and Jews living in Muslim societies, allowing them to marry, bury and worship according to their own creeds, though not to proselytise.

The more westernised Muslim approach approximates to the Christian church-state distinction, rendering into Caesar the things that are Caesar's. This technically imperfect way of being a Muslim is possible because of the temperate attitude within most of Islam towards those of its members who live less than perfect Muslim lives. It is tolerant of short-falling, and therefore can tolerate those for whom the *sharia*

is little more than a historic memory or an infinitely postponed goal. These westernised Muslims say, at least in private, that the *sharia* was not written for a world of motorcars and television, and certainly not for secular pluralist democracies. The notion of a special family law for Muslims implies a degree of compulsion by the religious authorities, a prospect that many Muslims living in the West do not find inviting.

Among those with this more western Muslim approach, probably an emerging majority, the Rushdie affair has caused deep embarrassment and profound misgivings, for it has been handled by the fundamentalists so as to coerce not only Mr Rushdie but them too. They have been put under notice that western freedom of speech does not apply to them should they ever dare question their faith publicly. As a Muslim, Mr Rushdie could do much to help them by accepting moderate Muslim demands but refusing to bow to the extremists. Very few Muslims in Britain have any time for the ayatollahs of Iran, though until now it has been hard for them to say so. They would welcome such a stand.

The false fundamentalist image of Islam projected in the West obscures the degree of clear-sighted wisdom among the great majority of its members and their leaders, who are not remotely fanatical nor ready to turn their backs on the real achievements of western civilisation. Christianity went through the 18th-century Enlightenment as a trauma, but Islam, by and large, would have found it quite congenial. Its recent contact with the West, including the Rushdie affair itself, has been an Enlightenment experience two centuries late. Only the real fundamentalists insist that Islam has nothing to learn, as it knows everything already. The rest will want to know what the Rushdie affair has to teach them.

What it teaches is that a secular pluralist state like Britain, far from being indifferent to religion, is prepared to defend literally to the death the right to religious freedom of absolutely anybody — a left-wing ex-Muslim Indian or anyone else, whatever the merits of his case. Relations between states will be broken off even wars will be fought, before those obligations are broken. Muslims should admire such resolution: it matches their own. They need to be able to incorporate into the Islamic tradition of religious tolerance the western (and by no means un-Islamic) principle that to compel a man against his conscience, or to punish him for his religious thought, is one of the most abhorrent of crimes. Once past that watershed, Islam has a healthy future as a western religion. If not, it has no future here at all.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

"DEAR Beverly," I wrote this Christmas, to my sister-in-law, "I realise that you will love this magenta jug with a purple handle, but that is not the point. I also love it. My secretary, who gave it to me, disliked it intensely. It was given to her. As she explained, I could give it to somebody else, saving the cost of buying one."

"I accepted her logic, and the gift. I now pass it on to you, in the same spirit. You should give it to someone else — perhaps with a photocopy of this explanatory note. Your affectionate brother-in-law, etc."

At the heart of the concept of present-giving lies a devastating flaw. It is simply expressed and its logic is irresistible: yet working it through to its necessary conclusion brings, in the days succeeding each new Christmas, a million heartaches. It is a truth which each of us eventually, sorrowfully, discovers.

If somebody really wanted something, they would have bought it for themselves. Or to put it the other way round: if someone hasn't got something already, it's probably because they don't want it.

There are, admittedly, two classes of person for whom this does not hold: people poorer than ourselves, and children. Children are not just the exception to the problem, but the cause of it. It is because we cherish such happy childhood memories of receiving presents that, as adults we believe that it is possible to occasion the same pleasure in others by giving them. It is not. Children must learn that the joy of giving is seldom reciprocal. We may give them presents, but we should not require presents in return. Instead of giving us things, children should be set helpful tasks to accomplish.

Children are nearly as strong as adults, have more energy and are far cleverer. Recreation is the last thing most of them need, but that is something craved by everyone over 13 as we start to rush headlong towards physical and mental decrepitude. There are many useful jobs — gardening, cataloguing the compact disc collec-

tion, sweeping the chimney — that would make lovely presents for parents, and teach children a valuable lesson for adult life: that, most often, the best thing you can give is time.

And for those poorer than ourselves? For them, material gifts do bring pleasure. But is the British family Christmas the best way of achieving this? The reason someone likes a present is that it is something he could ill afford himself. The reason he could ill afford it is that he lacks money. So why not give him the money straight? Within families I understand that this is best arranged through offshore trusts.

Perhaps you find the reasoning brutal? Take it, then, stage by stage. Start with a concept you find acceptable, such as book tokens. In what respect is a token (exchangeable only in a bookshop, for books) inferior to money (exchangeable anywhere, for anything)? Once you have plumped for money, ask yourself how often you actually spend these gifts of money on presents? If the gift is needed it will be spent on the gas meter. We are talking, in other words, not of a "ring-fenced" gift, but of a simple alteration to a bank balance. The next stage in your reasoning is to accept (as you must) that if your friend or relation wishes to return your affection with a gift of his own, money is also the best way. The final stage is to subtract the sum you would give from the sum he would offer. The balance — negative or positive — can then be transferred in one simple transaction. If it is a large one, consult an accountant.

The day is coming when every citizen will be able to key his desired yuletide transfer into a central computer; everything will then be set off against everything else, and the outcome reconciled into a single transaction — positive or negative — between each citizen and the central account. Remittance advice will be sent, so that each knows by whose generosity he has benefited.

These remittance notes will be accompanied by a festive sprig of holly.

# Planners hoodwinked: Marcus Binney on the commercial exploitation of country houses

## No grounds for development here

Planning authorities, at least in the matter of great country houses, learn nothing and remember nothing. During the 1950s and '60s, council after council agreed to schemes for new bungalows along the drive, houses in the walled garden, caravans around the most, all in the vain hope that this would generate funds to restore the old house or castle.

The record was set by poor Finedon Hall in Northamptonshire, which is now engulfed in executive homes, but it looks likely to be beaten by the Duke of Hamilton's former seat at Archerfield, where East Lothian council is "minded" to grant permission for 400 houses and holiday apartments in the grounds and for vast hotel wings that will overshadow the house.

The classic cautionary tale is of Pell Wall in Shropshire, the last country house by the great Sir John Soane. Here North Shropshire district council gave planning permission on plot after plot in the grounds to provide funds for restoration, until it became clear that the owner would never spend

one penny on repairs. Indeed, he eventually applied for permission for controlled burning of the interior as if it were a stubble field. The district council, to its credit, changed tack and fought heroically in the courts to save Pell Wall, its action culminating in a compulsory purchase and sale to a building preservation trust. But today not a trace of Pell Wall's once glorious interiors survive.

Now Venak, a Jersey company representing Asil Nadir family interests, is seeking consent for development plans at Burley-on-the-Hill, a magnificent but empty baroque palace overlooking Rutland Water. The original plans, described by the Georgian Group as the "most horrific of their kind ever seen", have been turned down, but permission is still sought for a 36-hole golf course and a new, free-standing hotel annex, in temple form, in the garden.

Rutland council's planning committee is "minded" to grant consent in the belief that this may at last prompt repairs on the house. Look more closely at this gracious £7 million annex and it becomes apparent that the cost

runs to £365,000 a bedroom, double what any normal hotelier would pay for even the grandest accommodation. The applicants, say the council, are planning a 30-year payback period. But how is such a charitable approach conceivable in today's recession?

No, as soon as permission is granted (the house is already on the books of Knight Frank & Rutley), a substantially higher price will be sought. And the new owners will probably say immediately that the hotel annex is too small, and that restoration of the house cannot begin until they have planning permission for a much larger building.

If the good burghers of Rutland have any doubts on this matter, let them look at the recent record. At Croome Court in Worcestershire — by Capability Brown — planning permission was granted for hotel use, with houses in the walled garden, and the property was immediately put back on the market.

At Thoresby in Nottinghamshire, a hotel scheme for the Glenaege of Sherwood Forest went through (forcing a sale of the contents) and immediately after

the house was put up for sale again. Herstoncoeur in Sussex, one of the finest 15th-century castles in England, was sold for £6 million and then put back on the market for £15 million as soon as the planning authority had agreed in principle to the addition of a hotel annex larger than the castle and to 60 "corporate lodges".

The lesson that planning authorities must learn is this. By granting permission for any enabling development in the grounds of a country house, they almost invariably allow a speculator to make a turn. The result is that anyone with a reasonable and sympathetic scheme is put out of the running, and that houses continue to rot as each new purchaser tries to improve on the planning permission.

Mr Heseltine, who has just taken a landmark decision by rejecting the appalling proposals for development beside the stone circle at Avebury, should send out a clear signal by calling in the Burley-on-the-Hill application for a public enquiry. Ian Lang, the new Secretary of State for Scotland, should do the same at Archerfield. In both cases, what is

proposed spells doom quite needlessly for a great house.

Houses like these will find the right buyers only if they are offered for sale at a price that reflects their condition and the amount of money that needs to be spent on them. If the asking price instead reflects the value of the building plots in the grounds they are doomed.

Country house hotels do not need vast new bedroom wings to succeed. Richard Broyd, who has brilliantly transformed three major houses — Bodysgallen in Wales, Middlethorpe outside York and Hartwell in Buckinghamshire — makes a point of this by saying in his promotion "you will not find modern bedroom wings, nor do golf courses cross our path". Just five miles up the road from Burley, an American, Bob Payton, has carried out a superb hotel conversion at Stapleford Park, while Tim Hart's Hambleton Hall nearby has three red roofs (for comfort) in the *Michelin Guide*. The success of both is due simply to making the best use of the house alone. The author is president of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

# The fears ravaging a dream

Mary Dejevsky in Moscow finds the western spirit of Christmas in vogue, as though it will invoke the wealth and well-being that every statistic belies

On Christmas Eve, Soviet television opened its evening news programme with a tribute to peace, goodwill and charity. Only then did it report the serious business of the day: the continuing debates in the Soviet parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, on no less a topic than the future of the country.

In an increasingly strange Soviet Union, this unaccustomed order of priorities seemed especially odd, because in most of the Soviet Union December 24 is merely the eve of an ordinary working day. The Russian Orthodox Christmas (which will be a public holiday in Russia and the Ukraine next year for the first time since 1917) falls on January 7, and the main Soviet holiday of the season is New Year.

The Christmas tribute may have been the quirk of a news producer or a small attempt to distract preoccupied viewers from their everyday worries. More likely, it was part of a general fascination with the West, a fascination which assumes that if the Soviet Union can somehow assemble the components of the western way of life — from public holidays and feasts to banks and stock exchanges — the whole will spring to life, in all its wealth, colour and variety.

Everyone knows that in the real world that sort of thing does not happen. Yet at 1990 passes into 1991 there is a sense in which Soviet territory seems suspended in time and space.

Some time during the late summer and autumn, the Soviet Union as such ceased to exist. In a matter of months, all its central institutions from economic contracting to universal conscription have started to unravel. But the Soviet Union's leaders and most of its people persist in the pretence that its demise, if real, is only temporary.

Given a little of Gorbachev's well-practised chivvying and a spot of old-fashioned discipline, they believe, the Land of the Soviets, with its rousing national anthem, will revert to its predictable old self.

The economic plan will be finalised to the last dot and comma and heroically over-fulfilled. The shops will suddenly be as well-stocked (a relative term) as they were in the days of Brezhnevian plenty, and the spectre of ethnic conflicts, of refugees, of hunger and of bloodshed will evaporate as quickly as it appeared. People hold to this belief because deep down they fear something incalculably worse.

Some might compare the current mood with that of a phoney war; others to the silence before a storm. To an engaged observer, the drama has something of a complicated thriller and horror film combined, with no hint of the denouement that must come.

The widely reported food shortages are a public symptom of the private disquiet. Increasing numbers of people are seen on the streets in daytime: people who in this country of notional full employment would otherwise be at work. They queue and hoard not because they are hungry, but because they fear that they may be soon. No one is confident any longer that the government, the president or anyone else will come to their rescue. They must look after themselves.

Crime statistics add to the concern. Reports of violent crime have risen steeply in the past two years. For the first time, the total number of murders committed in the Soviet Union each month is reported to have exceeded that in America (2,050 against 1,790). Other Soviet crime figures are far lower than in America, but in a country where publicised crime is

with a 25ft fish tank containing two and half tonnes of water. "This is the first time we have funded a tour by a continental company with a British producer," says an Arts Council spokesman. "It is a very exciting initiative."

Producer Ellen Kent, of Dual Control, says she is bracing herself for complaints that a "rich" French company is soaking up funds needed by British arts companies. "But such comments are nonsense, as very insular," she says. "The Arts Council is very enlightened in doing this. It is opening up a two-way traffic between here and the Continent." In any case, she adds tellingly, why should the company not receive an Arts Council grant? "After all, we are using British fish."

For a little festive fun, the winter issue of *The Scottish Conservative* resurrected the famous photograph of Mrs Thatcher stroking a goat during the 1987 general election campaign for a caption campaign for a caption competition. The editor, Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, who still counts himself a staunch Thatcherite, had no hesitation in selecting the winning entry: "We are a nanny now."

After the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, former members of Bomber Command are determined that 1991 will be the year their role is remembered. "No one would deny that Fighter Command saved us from invasion in 1940, but it is equally certain that the turning point occurred in 1941, when Bomber Command started repaying the enemy with interest, led by the Stirling," says Doug Simms, a former flight lieutenant who flew



At least one treat in store: after queuing for hours, shoppers leave Children's World in Moscow yesterday with presents

a novelty, they still trigger alarm and fear.

For all the cheerful statements of earlier years, the Soviet Union has never been free of crime, and the recorded increase may be a product more of glasnost than of reality. Folk myths used to abound of pedregos dogs snatched to make meat and fur hats. There were tales of people killed for their fur coats or their western-label jeans. But while such incidents used to be the stuff of apocrypha, the common perception now is that they happen all the time.

The suicide rate presents an equally gloomy picture. To attempt suicide in the land of the bright future was once a sin as mortal as for a Roman Catholic. Because it also reflected the short-

comings of society, it was passed over in silence. So the wave of suicides in the past two years may, like the crime figures, reflect a reported rather than real increase, but Russians choose to believe otherwise: they see it as a collective cry of despair.

Last week, a Soviet newspaper deepened the depression still further by writing of a third demographic catastrophe for Russia. The first, it said, was the combination of the first world war and the civil war; the second Stalin's purges and the second world war. The third it deduced from a sharp turn for the worse in the birth and mortality rates for the Russian Federation over the past four years. This has combined with rapid emigration to give the first

net decrease in the republic's population since the last war.

The increase in the mortality rate, from 10.4 per 1,000 in 1986 to a projected 11.6 per 1,000 in 1990, was said to combine the effects of alcoholism, poor medical care and a reduced desire to live. The fall in the birth rate, from 17.2 to a projected 13.9 per 1,000 over the same period, was ascribed to alcoholism, poor medical care, and the reluctance to bring children into an uncertain world.

Such figures, of course, have overtly political as well as statistical uses. The rise in reported crime is used by the law and order lobby to press for tough action, which might include the use of military force. Food shortages are used to demonstrate the importance of reformist local councils. The demographic figures are used by Russia's political conservatives to persuade Russians to defend their cause more aggressively. Cumulatively, however, the figures contribute to a general trepidation that the territory of the Soviet Union and the people who inhabit it are in terminal decline.

Last week, as though there were no tasks more urgent, the whole of the Soviet leadership, together with 2,000 delegates, forsook their desks and telephones for 10 days of talking and voting in the Kremlin congress hall. In that time, the respected foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, resigned; the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, suffered a heart attack; the Soviet government as it has been known for 70 years was abolished, and a little-known bureaucrat was advanced to become vice-president.

On the streets, the talk was not of constitutional change and renewal, but of food shortages, rats deserting a sinking ship and the lure of the West.

Before the snow fell two weeks ago, gardeners were digging over the ornamental beds beside the Kremlin wall and wrapping the sapling trees against the frost. Did none of the passers-by wonder then, as they hurried to the next queue, what sort of a country would greet the daffodil shoots and birch buds in the spring?

accounts exist. "Although he was cunning he was also very stupid," he says. "Ceausescu possibly spent it all on his palaces."

Edward Behr, who is working on a rival book, disagrees. He has interviewed members of the Ceausescu family, including Nadia Bujor, a niece now living in Paris, and he is convinced the trope exists, possibly in Swedish accounts. "It could be \$400 million, but Ceausescu left no will and felt so much above the law that it is now hard to establish how much he had or where it is. But whatever he put away he spent more on palaces, hunting lodges and retreats. Romania is full of bedrooms built for the Ceausescus but never slept in."

## Power switch

Michael Reidy, who headed Peter Walker's private office when Walker was energy secretary, is following his former political master into the boardroom of a company in whose privatisation he was involved. While Walker sits on the board of British Gas, privatised under his stewardship in 1986, Reidy, a central figure in the sale of both the gas and electricity industries, has landed a directorship of PowerGen.

Along the way, Reidy's path has taken him to the door of several parties connected with the privatisation. While still a civil servant, he was seconded successively to Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank which advised on electricity privatisation, and the Central Electricity Generating Board. PowerGen will not say what Reidy will earn as its director of corporate services, but one thing is certain: it will be a great deal more than the top civil service salary of £38,600 that he was paid as an assistant secretary.

## Rent asunder

For years Neil Kinnoch was embarrassed by the antics of the left-wing Labour council in Ealing, west London, where he lives. Now Sir George Young, Ealing's best-known Tory resident and a local MP, is feeling the heat.

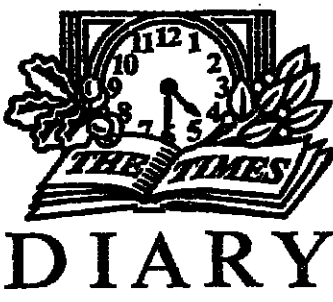
Only weeks after Young was appointed to the government as housing minister, the council, which bucked the national trend by going Conservative last May, is raising rents for its 20,000 tenants by 38 per cent. It is not even waiting until April, the start of the new financial year, the increase, averaging about £10 a week, will take effect immediately.

The Conservative leader, Martin Mallam, puts much of the blame on the last Labour administration, though he admits that government changes in housing subsidy arrangements — for which Young is now responsible — have made the situation worse. Does he have any qualms about making Young so vulnerable to local fire? "He is worried that the rents have gone up so much," says Mallam, "but is aware of the problems we are facing. We have kept him in touch with what is going on."

## Where be treasure?

A year after the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena, no one is any nearer tracking down the private fortune they are believed to have secreted away. The Romanian government has been unable to trace any of it, and no telltale documents have been discovered among Ceausescu's papers.

John Sweeney, who is writing a book about the Ceausescus, has begun to wonder if any secret bank

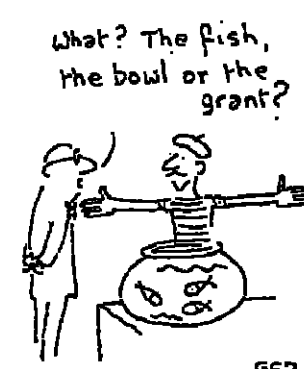


Stirlings. "Churchill said that the fighters were our salvation, but the bombers alone provided the means of victory."

The now almost forgotten Stirling entered operational service on the night of February 10, 1941, as the first of Bomber Command's four-engine heavy bombers to respond to Germany's onslaught on British cities. By September 1944, when they had been supplanted by the Halifax and Lancaster, Stirlings had carried out more than 15,000 sorties.

Alas, of the 2,400 Stirlings built, not one remains, so if there is a bomber flypast during 1991, only its successors will take part. Members of the 600-strong Stirling Aircraft Association, under the presidency of Group Captain Hamish Mahaddie, will nevertheless celebrate with a 50th anniversary dinner next month at St Ives, Cambridgeshire. The following day, after a church service at Longstanton, they plan a buffet lunch at Oakington, a former RAF base used for the first Stirling operation.

Half a century after Hitler, however, they could be shot down by enemy action. Oakington is now an army camp, and if fighting breaks out in the Gulf, the gathering may be cancelled.







## LABOUR AND LIBERTY

The Labour party is about to unveil its plans for political reform, a "charter of rights". This will be a direct political challenge to the new libertarianism mooted by John Major. After a decade of Margaret Thatcher, marked by a conservative authoritarianism towards civil rights, there is now a good chance that Britain is entering a period of real constitutional development. If this is not just tinkering but leads to a substantial shift of power between the government and the governed, the prospect is exciting.

Labour's first offering will cover government secrets, the intelligence services, personal privacy, oversight of the media, anti-discrimination laws and rights of association and assembly. The government for its part has hinted at reform to parliamentary procedure and seems likely to take a more relaxed approach than did Mrs Thatcher to secrecy in government business.

The Labour party, however, has been here before. Commitments to extend civil rights have often featured in the party's programmes when in opposition. But in power Labour has tended to put the public interest in open government second to the "national interest", the classic excuse for secrecy.

Perhaps this time Labour means business. There is much worth pursuing in its new charter. If, as seems likely, the Tories are reluctant to see themselves outflanked by Labour on civil rights issues, then the debate now beginning should lead to many overdue reforms. The unwritten British constitution is often praised, against foreign sceptics, for its flexibility. Now is the time to demonstrate those virtues.

The focus of this debate should be the relationship between government and governed, the obligation owed by the former to the latter as part of its democratic mandate. This obligation covers the availability of official information, the accountability of the security services and the freedom of the media and parliament to exercise proper scrutiny of the executive.

There is now a wealth of experience on all these topics from other democracies which have been less cautious than Britain. The experience, for instance in America, does not always tell in favour of greater

disclosure. But the secrecy surrounding government documents, the complete lack of scrutiny of secret service activity, and the boorish use of archaic legislation by Downing Street to protect its political back, were unappealing features of the old regime which should be remedied.

Labour's approach is the piecemeal one eschewed by such groups as Charter 88, which has placed much confidence on a bill of rights achieving "at a stroke" a radical transformation of the citizen's relationship to the state. The one-step-at-a-time advance Labour prefers, however, is more likely to produce early practical results than the vague formulas of basic constitutional documents. None the less the relationship between British law and the European Convention on Human Rights is worth further study. The conception of rights in common law is too weak to bear all the burdens put on it. But the practical and constitutional difficulties of aligning what are in principle different philosophies of law should not be underestimated.

Opponents of enshrined rights argue that they are a poor substitute for parliamentary supervision of the executive. They cannot rest their case there, however, as the reform of parliament itself has become pressing. This body has been reduced - by ever tighter whipping and cruder use of patronage - to a pale shadow of its constitutional role. The hostility shown by Mrs Thatcher to public enquiries and commissions led to a polarisation of discussion on many aspects of constitutional reform. Yet such enquiries have long had a useful purpose, to air alternatives and secure a measure of bipartisan agreement for reform. Partisan amendments to the constitution serve only partisan purposes while weakening the constitution in turn. A non-partisan enquiry into the future of local government finance would still be an ideal way out of Michael Heseltine's poll tax dilemma.

The British constitution must never be allowed to stagnate. All political parties have to keep an open mind on constitutional reform and the more promiscuously they exchange ideas the better. Mr Major should not be shy about stealing Labour's clothes.

## MADE IN BRITAIN

The rupture between Nissan, the Japanese car company, and its long-standing but separate British distributor, Nissan UK, is a dispute which may have important implications for the European car industry.

The countries of the European Community are currently engaged in a protracted wrangle about Japanese car quotas in the EC after the creation of the single market in 1992. Five EC countries, including the UK, apply quotas on car imports from Japan; the rest do not. Brussels, rightly, sees that as incompatible with the single market: a car imported from Japan to Germany should be freely available for re-export to Britain. With the ending of quotas in 1992, Brussels is seeking agreement from EC member countries to transitional arrangements involving voluntary restraints on Japanese car sales. But it is wrongly bending under pressure, as part of a fudged compromise, to include cars made in Britain by Japanese companies.

Distributing Japanese cars will be big business, very big indeed if Japanese car plants on EC soil are eventually treated as domestic EC industry and therefore beyond all restrictions on their marketing. Part of the disagreement between Nissan and Nissan UK is over the fixing of prices at such a level that holds sales down, presumably for fear of upsetting the longer-established British and European car industry by too rapid a growth in sales. Such Japanese fears should be unnecessary, however, as Nissan ought to be fully entitled to regard itself as part of the British car industry, not as an alien invader.

It is well known that other manufacturers take advantage of a cartel-like climate, if not

an actual cartel, to price their cars higher in Britain than on the European mainland. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is currently investigating this aspect of car pricing in Britain. Part of Nissan UK's complaint is that it has been prevented by Nissan itself from acting against that apparent cartel, to force prices down by competitive pricing. But the time has surely come for Nissan to start losing its inhibitions, and to give the others the competition they deserve.

Britain now has more Japanese manufacturing plants than any other country in western Europe. Wherever Japanese companies have set foot in the UK, their devotion to quality has forced British industry to improve its standards. Car-making is no exception: Nissan has galvanised motor manufacture since its decision six years ago to set up in Britain. It should be prepared to galvanise the car distribution industry too.

Japanese methods are still different. They are now, in all respects except the ultimate destination of their profits, British companies - Nissan is at least as much a British car manufacturer as are the American-owned Ford and General Motors. Brussels should state clearly that all cars fully manufactured in the EC are EC cars, whether the company is Japanese-owned or not, and they should be excluded from the current negotiations on import restrictions. The value of Japanese companies as a spur to industry in Britain and throughout Europe is immense. They have invested here: they are entitled to British support and advocacy in the negotiations in Brussels.

## SAVE ST PANCRAS

The need for emergency work to protect Britain's finest and saddest grade one listed building is tragic. Consultants have had to be called in to prevent winter doing further damage to the roof of the former St Pancras hotel in London, opened in 1873, closed in 1935 and completely empty for most of the past decade. Plans to re-create the building as a hotel in the grand style remain shelved, and with the downturn in the property market must be considered at risk.

A masterpiece which in any other European capital would have been restored to its original glory (like the Gare d'Orsay in Paris, for example) stands dirty and decaying on a prominent site next to the proposed new European rail terminal.

The treatment of St Pancras has been a fiasco, full of lessons for the conduct of Britain's public sector. The first fault lies with the owner, British Rail, who for years failed to allow the building to be used for commercial development in order to realise its value. The objection was that the building was part of a station and should be kept for railway purposes, with no thought of profit. The result, mercifully, was that conversion into an office block was postponed until developers became interested in restoring St Pancras as a hotel. But British Rail's property board delayed further, as differing railway interests impeded the efforts of the selected developer, Speyhawk, to carry out plans for a hotel agreed by the Victorian Society and the historic buildings agencies.

Then other villains entered the piece. The local council, Camden, used St Pancras as a weapon in its ideological war on enterprise. Little concerned with jobs or with conserva-

tion, it imposed new delaying conditions on the plans. St Pancras then became enmeshed, both financially and operationally, in the much bigger redevelopment of the King's Cross site, where it is now stuck.

Sheer bigness is the greatest enemy of speed and efficiency in administration. The King's Cross development - involving new overground and underground termini, new tunnels, demolished buildings, displaced neighbourhoods, rerouted roads - was so huge and complex that sceptics doubted whether it would ever happen.

While in theory each piece of the jigsaw could be seen into place, the practicalities of British planning law made it nearly impossible to achieve. The government, by refusing to reform private bill procedure for land acquisition by utilities, virtually ensured stalemate. While public enquiries have their defects, a speeded-up enquiry route would have been both more democratic and faster.

St Pancras is now sinking into the King's Cross pit of despair. Its financing depends on partial cross-subsidy from the bigger development, a development that may never take place at least in its more ambitious form. A restoration which might have been confined to the old hotel and its immediate hinterland has fallen victim to the yearning for bigness that afflicts all public corporations and government departments. Sir Gilbert Scott's great Gothic staircase, his splendid coffee room, the magnificent bedrooms, dining rooms and massive vaults must remain empty and forlorn: a memorial to what Britain cannot do, dating from a time when it could.

## A way forward in local government

From the Chairman of Berkshire County Council

Sir, All sides in the debate about the restructuring of local government are calling for a fair and "stable" system, as if there were one. This issue was addressed in the Redcliffe-Maud report and there was in 1972-3 a declared intention to implement those recommendations.

The outcome was the squalid compromise we have now. That arose partly because MPs were unable or unwilling to resist special pleadings for their own areas and from their supporters, and partly from geographical and other horse-trading. Thus in Berkshire, Reading and Slough were cut off from their hinterlands to the north, with consequent long-standing planning and development problems.

The only justification for re-organising local government is to give a better service at the same or lower cost. That and unitary authorities were the Maud ideal. What actually happened were vastly inflated bureaucracies and generous handouts to those retiring officers who were disappointed in not obtaining a position to which they thought they were entitled. All those costs devolved on the taxpayers.

Whether you now abolish 300-plus district councils or 46 county councils, the costs this time for the same reasons will be equally horrendous.

In the first years of the 1973 reorganisation officers' and members' time was largely taken up with administrative and organisational problems. It was only after ten to 15 years that full attention was given to getting good services at low cost. The same will happen this time. Of course there are immense potential advantages in unitary authorities but it is the word "potential" that causes difficulty. It is either frustrated as before or never realised.

The way forward is surely not by another disastrous edict from Parliament but evolution, i.e., by providing mechanisms to change things only when and where there are significant problems. The abolition of the worst anomalies of 1973-4 changes - Avon and Humberside - has been put on the agenda by the Boundary Commissions.

Surely this is one way forward which will enable the pros and cons of change to be carefully considered. Such additional costs as will arise will be on a small scale and the chances of increasing efficiency and accountability possible.

Addressing local government finance and how and by whom it should be raised could, on the other hand, automatically produce significant improvements. If at the same time the trend to the enabling council continues, a reformed local government will naturally evolve.

Yours sincerely,

W. A. WISEMAN, Chairman, Berkshire County Council, Shire Hall, Shindfield Park, Reading, Berkshire, December 20.

## Green Christmas

From the Secretary of the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association

Sir, I refer to Mr Charles Scott's letter about Christmas trees (December 24). In this enlightened age Christmas trees are grown in special plantations, far too close together ever to grow into large trees. Each one we harvest is immediately replaced with another. While growing, each one is absorbing 27 lbs of carbon dioxide a year. There are nearly 40 million growing in the UK and between them they are converting nearly half a million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into carbon and oxygen annually.

None would be grown if people did not have real Christmas trees to change the fun and happiness of the family Christmas. The more real Christmas trees people buy the more there will be to help to keep our atmosphere clean.

Yours faithfully,

TONY RICHARDSON, Secretary, British Christmas Tree Growers' Association, 12 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon, SW19.

## Independent policy

From Mr Peregrine Worsthorne

Sir, Contrary to what was reported by Mr Charles Wintour (The Press, December 26) Mr Max Hastings does not determine the policy of The Sunday Telegraph Comment Section. I do, and the section's independence remains undiluted.

Yours faithfully, PEREGRINE WORTHORNE (Editor, Comment Section), The Sunday Telegraph, Peterborough Court at South Quay, 181 Marsh Wall, E14.

## Forms of address

From Mr John Knott

Sir, Vivien Allen asks (December 21) when her grandson should be promoted from "Master" to "Mr". At 16, my elder son equipped himself, from the proceeds of his paper round, with some remarkable gold-coloured adhesive labels, marked "Julian Knott Esquire". These he applied generously to both newspaper and envelopes.

Yours faithfully, JOHN KNOTT, Marlow House, Lloyds Avenue, EC3.

From Mr Scirard Lancelyn Green

Sir, I would glibly suggest that one becomes "Mr" and ceases to be "Master" on reaching majority, matrimony, or (at least in Oxford) matriculation, whichever is the

## Changes at the top for penal reform

From the Chairman of the Prison Governors' Association

Sir, Prison governors will welcome the interest in penal reform evidenced by your editorial "A mission for Mr Baker" (December 15) and your call for the new home secretary to take a "no limit" prison initiative. But Mr Baker will first want to see the report of Lord Justice Woolf as well as reports from the chief inspector.

So serious was the state of the prisons in 1976 that prison governors collectively decided to publicise bad prison conditions and overcrowding.

If conditions and the treatment of prisoners are to improve across the service - and especially in the older overcrowded prisons - much depends on the governor and his management team. A major part of the task of HQ is to help the governor. But in practice, the Whitehall culture of reluctant and cosmetic delegation prevails. Governors have too little power to control resources, for example in financial matters. Much greater delegation of control is needed.

Effective leadership is required at the top of the service. The Whitehall culture produces very able and talented administrators. But it does not necessarily produce those with the leadership qualities capable of inspiring the best response from the prison service. A governor has never had the chance of filling the top post. If radical change to the top leadership is being considered, then it is time a governor was appointed director general of the prison service.

Leadership and management changes are not enough. The tasks and resources of the service have to be brought into balance. Your reference to overmanning calls for comment. Governors believe that the 15-25 per cent efficiency cuts brought in under "Fresh Start" have left the service's manpower overstretched. An example is our inability to free staff up to be trained. This is especially serious because the amount of change taking place requires a high-training investment, for example in suicide prevention training.

Cutting back operational staffing

## Damage at birth

From Ms Julia Cahill

Sir, The letter from Mr S. C. Simmons, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (December 13) supporting Sir Donald Acheson's suggestion that children brain damaged by obstetric negligence should lose their right to seek compensation through the courts must not go unchallenged.

In 1989 doctors themselves defined defensive medicine as putting the interests of the doctor before that of the patient. Having arrived at this definition they accepted that defensive medicine was always unacceptable practice.

The notion of defensive medicine arose out of the increase in litigation in the US. Medical politicians cited the ever increasing percentages of caesarian births as proof of the existence of defensive medicine. In fact, as subsequent research has shown it was no such thing.

What recent research has shown however is that the more comprehensive an American woman's private health insurance cover the higher the level of obstetric intervention and the more likely it is that she will deliver by caesarian section. In a profit-based private health care system a caesarian section in hospital is vastly more profitable than a birth at home.

Behind the American notion of defensive medicine is the theory that doctors practise it to protect themselves from their financial liability to injured patients. Since January this year all NHS doctors in this country have been relieved by the government of all financial liability for medical negligence claims. If the interests Mr Simmons says doctors in this country will seek to protect by the practice of defensive medicine are not financial, what are they?

Injured patients in this country are now, for the first time, effecting through our much maligned court procedures a form of accountability that puts the medical profession's own accountability forum, the General Medical Council, to shame. Having been relieved of financial liability are medical politicians now seeking to also escape accountability?

Yours faithfully, JULIA CAHILL, 135 Offord Road, Islington, N1.

## Torture by Iraqis

From Dr Fawzia Mohammed

Sir, Amnesty International has confirmed (report, December 19) the authenticity of eye-witness accounts of Iraqi forces removing equipment from Kuwait hospitals.

Previously, Dr Gisti Sigurdsson (report, December 11) had denied the validity of reports that troops had removed premature babies from incubators and left them to die while they took equipment to Baghdad.

The Association for Free Kuwait has documentary evidence from three medical eye witnesses who testified at a United Nations Security Council hearing on November 27 that they had personally witnessed, amongst other incidents, the eviction of babies from incubators.

The latest Amnesty International report states that Iraqi forces had tortured and killed many hundreds of victims, taken several thousand prisoners and left more than 300 premature babies to die after looting incubators from at least three of Kuwait's main hospitals.

Yours etc., FAWZIA MOHAMMED, The Association for Free Kuwait, PO Box 4PD, London W1A 4PD, December 19.

## Where music on TV intrudes

From Mr Michael J. Clow

Sir, On Saturday, December 15, I visited my local concert hall to see and enjoy an evening of classical music performed by the Halle Orchestra. The producer and conductor of the concert did not feel the need to enhance the performance by projecting on to a giant screen moving pictures of either Linford Christie running the 200 metres, Graham Gooch scoring his memorable 300th run, or even "Gazza" in tears.

The sight and sound of the orchestra was allowed to stand on its own. Its power and beauty did not require any alien art form as a buttress. Plain common sense?

The following day I switched on the television in anticipation of seeing and enjoying an evening of sport via the "Sports Review of the Year" on BBC1. This was ruined by the mindless and intrusive music which accompanied virtually every clip of film.

The producers of present-day sports programmes on television either have no faith in the quality of their product or no concept of the nature of the sport being televised. They do have, however, a massive arrogance which enables them to be arbiters of the type of music chosen to spoil the visual image.

As with music, sport has its own unique sound and quality: the roar of spectators, the thunder of hooves, leather on willow, and the grunts of a rugby pack. Even silence has a role in sport: the hush before a vital conversion, putt or pot. When will television sports producers have the common sense and humility to let their sport stand alone and to stop inflicting their unnecessary and unwanted musical tastes on viewers?

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL J. CLOW, 12 St Wolstan's Close, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire, December 18.

From Dr Vernon F. Hall

Sir, Not only for the deaf (letters, December 3, 21) but also for many whose hearing is reasonably good BBC Television have been for some years the most constant purveyor of unneeded and unwelcome noise.

With their strange obsession for background accompaniment, if it is possible to include a noisy riot, a loud car or aeroplane engine or discussion group, it is always included. And they go further than that: in their otherwise excellent nature programmes, it appears that no bird will fly and no deer will wander without a musical stimulus.

Indeed they go even further, for they insult their actors and playwrights by improving their work by loud or soft music, so as to ensure that the less intelligent viewer or listener will understand what the spoken words really mean. The fact that the music often prevents even the slightly deaf from hearing what is said apparently does not matter.

Were all broadcasting producers brought up in the age of the silent film when the valiant piano thumper did so much to help?

Yours faithfully, VERNON F. HALL, 83a Foxgrove Road, Beckenham, Kent, December 21.

House in the frame

From Mr Anthony Gladstone-Thompson

Sir, I was surprised and amused to read William Cash's article today (December 27) about burglars stripping fixtures and fittings from period houses: surprised, because the house chosen to illustrate the text was undoubtedly my own, and amused because there sadly remain few if any of the features listed as being valuable; there is no door case; the slates are asbestos; the baths steel; and the chimney pieces made, by me, of wood.

I am happy for the address to be identified, since my neighbours and I in the local residents' association would like to know that our houses are too modest and have suffered too much in the past from being rented or converted into bedsits to be of interest to them.

The house your staff photographed was a nightclub in the 1960s and then a nurses' hostel until a few years ago, and any apparent period detail is reproduction.

Yours faithfully, A. H. GLADSTONE-THOMPSON (Chairman, Stockwell Park Residents' Association), 29 Stockwell Park Crescent, SW9, December 27.

From Mr Frank W. Button

Sir, Mrs Vivien Allen's problem is solved if she follows the practice of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and just uses a Christian name and a surname.

Yours faithfully, FRANK W. BUTTON, 390 Wokingham Road, Easington, Reading, Berkshire.

From Mrs Lynne Lindsay

Sir, In reply to Ms V. Allen a "Master" becomes a "Mr" when the envelope containing the Christmas card no longer contains a 25 note.

Yours truly, LYNNE LINDSAY, 1 Ashlands, Frodsham, Warrington, Cheshire, December 21.

From Mr Peter West

Sir, Ms Allen should surely stop addressing her 14-year-old grandson as "Master" and use "Mr" when his voice breaks.

Yours faithfully, PETER WEST, 28 Bulmershe Road, Reading, Berkshire.

From Mr D. A. Douglas

Sir, When does "Mr" become "Esq"? And should one address grandmothers as "Ms"?

Yours faithfully, DAVID DOUGLAS, Wilkes Barn, Emdon, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.







## Two-point cut in bank rate 'could revive house prices'

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A CUT in interest rates by 2 points in the next few months could signal a recovery in the housing market and an increase in house prices of 5 per cent by the end of 1991, the Halifax Building Society predicts in its annual review of the housing market published today.

The recovery will be led from the South, but the Halifax believes there will be little variation in the regions in the next two or three years. During 1992 and 1993, house prices will probably continue to rise, perhaps by between 5 and 10 per cent.

Such a situation is indicative of a healthy housing market with people being able to buy and sell houses when they wish to, neither being pressured to buy quickly because of boom conditions nor being unable to sell because of the consequent 'bust', a spokesman said.

During the past year, prices have topped in parts of the country, particularly the south of England, for the first time since the second world war. For the UK as a whole, however, house prices are not markedly worse than in the recessions of the mid-1970s and early 1980s. Real declines of 10 to 15 per cent have taken place in the past year, similar to the 1974-5 period and only slightly worse than 1980-2.

For housebuilders, however, the situation has been very grim. In 1990, only about 130,000 houses have been started in the private sector, compared with 220,000 in 1988. In previous recessions, housebuilders were cushioned by the big number of houses built in the public sector but, in 1990, the total being built by local authorities and housing associations is unlikely to be much more than 20,000.

Meanwhile, house-owners have seen mortgage interest tax relief steadily eroded in real terms by the government's refusal to index the ceiling. The present £30,000 limit would be about £140,000 if it had been indexed since 1974 and £65,000 if its 1983 value had been maintained.

Nonetheless, the relief still boosts the after-mortgage income of many homeowners. At the basic rate, taxpayers benefit by an average of £90 a month with mortgage rates at 14.5 per cent, while higher-rate taxpayers benefit by a further £55 a month. "We would not want to see major

changes to it [mortgage income tax relief]," the Halifax said. "In fact, we would like to see the ceiling raised to more realistic levels."

House prices ended the year 15-20 per cent down from the 1988 peak in East Anglia and the South-East, while most other regions were less badly affected. The "ripple" effect meant that the slowdown in prices moved northwards, but in the North, where prices continued to rise in 1989 while they were falling in the south, they still rose by about 5 per cent.

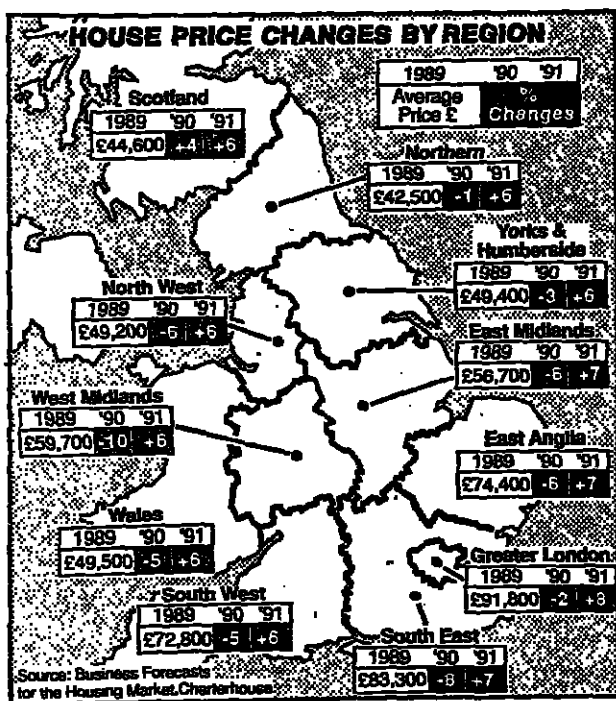
The Midlands and Wales avoided the sharp decline of the South, but the slowdown there preceded that of the North and prices were marginally lower at the end of the year. Because Scotland did not experience the sharp rises of the English boom, the slowdown was also less pronounced, with house prices rising by about 7 per cent in 1990.

As a result of the changes in regional house price inflation, the gap in prices between the regions has narrowed. For much of the post-war period, for example, prices in Greater London were between 1.5 and 1.8 times more than those in Yorkshire and Humberside. In the 1988 boom, the gap widened to 2.7 times, but is now back to 1.7 times.

Only in Scotland and Northern Ireland are prices still somewhat below their "normal" levels relative to the rest of the United Kingdom. The continued strength of the Scottish market could well imply a further narrowing of the gap over the next few months but, in Northern Ireland, prices are little over half the UK average and show few signs of catching up.

Meanwhile, in *Business Forecasts for the Housing Market*, published recently, Professor James Morrell has predicted that house prices will rise by 7 per cent next year and by more than 11 per cent in 1992, followed by slower growth in 1993.

The accompanying table shows that 1990 saw reductions in house prices everywhere except Scotland, although there is a wide variation across Britain. For next year, the predicted increases are much less varied, with the areas worst affected by the slump - the South-East, East Anglia and east Midlands - expected to show slightly larger increases.



## Merger talks start on 'super union'

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

TALKS have begun on the creation of Britain's biggest union, which aims to have the resources and expertise to stand up to multi-national companies once the trade barriers come down in Europe in 1992.

If the merger succeeds, the new "super union" will be second in size within the EC only to the German metal workers' union and topple the Transport and General Workers' union from the position it has held for years.

The proposed merger, between the National Union of Public Employees, the National and Local Government Officers' Association and the Confederation of Health Service Employees, will create a left-led 1,607,000-member power block with formidable political and bargaining powers. One real difficulty confronting the merger strategists is that while Nupe and

Cohse are affiliated to the Labour party, Nalco is not.

The thought of losing its traditional position as Britain's biggest union may encourage the transport workers' leadership to begin serious talks with the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union to create a merger that would form a two-million strong power block. Both unions are heavily in debt and have already started cost-cutting exercises.

The TUC is to press the government to give workers rights in law to monitor the way companies are tackling environmental issues. Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday he feared political motives lay behind the omission in the recent white paper, *This Common Inheritance*, of ways in which employees and trade unionists could help improve the environment.



Moving expectations: an employee at the Halifax Property Services office covering Blackheath and Charlton, southeast London, takes telephone enquiries and awaits a revival of the housing market after a two-year slump

## Borrowing could 'ease plight of homeless'

MORE than 8,000 homeless families could move out of bed and breakfast accommodation and into permanent homes if the government allowed local councils to borrow more money to build or buy properties, the London Housing Unit says in a new message published today (Christopher Warman writes).

Councils would need to borrow about £624 million to move all the families in bed and breakfast accommodation in London into new homes, the unit estimates. That sum would be "a fraction of the £66 billion that home-owners borrowed last year".

In 1990, although 12,000 homeless families were housed in cheaper, privately leased properties, the number in bed and breakfast places reached a record of over 8,000.

The unit says that, in 1989, London councils started work on just over 1,000 homes, compared with 13,000 in 1979. Over the past decade, they housed about 608,000 homeless people.

Before Christmas, the government announced a £96 million programme designed to take the homeless off the streets of London and give them somewhere to sleep.

## Police talk to mother in canal tragedy

THE parents of three children who drowned in a canal lock were being comforted by relatives yesterday after police had interviewed the mother about the tragedy (David Young writes).

Suzanne Vazquez and her husband, Carlos, were treated for shock after the accident on Thursday at Southcote lock on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Burghfield, near Reading, Berkshire. It is believed that Mrs Vazquez was carrying her seven-month-old baby, Craig, as she walked along the canal bank with her daughters, Claire, aged six, and Carla, aged eight. The girls slipped and fell into the water and their mother lost hold of her baby as she tried to save them.

Mrs Vazquez, of Tilehurst, Reading, was taken to hospital. Police found her husband fishing beside another waterway in the Reading area and took him to her bedside.

Superintendent Michael Page said that detectives had interviewed Mrs Vazquez, but would need to speak to her again. "The mother was apparently the only witness to the event and we shall be going over the circumstances with her in detail when she is well enough."

NO MATTER HOW YOU EMERGE FROM THE ELECTRICITY SHARE ISSUE IT MAKES SENSE TO PLUG INTO BARCLAYS

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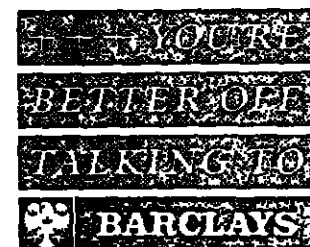
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## East joins West in effort to outlaw chemical weapons

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PRESSURE will increase in the new year for international agreement on an effective convention banning the production of chemical weapons, according to sources in Whitehall. The urgency has been heightened by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and concern has spread from Western governments to those of the former communist East European states.

The proliferation of such weapons is getting worse, partly because Iraq has broken long-standing taboos against their use, the sources say. Although only three countries — the United States, the Soviet Union and Iraq — have acknowledged having chemical weapons, another 20 are believed either to have or be seeking to acquire them. The danger is greatest in the Middle East, where many of the 20 suspect countries are concentrated and the political situation is most unstable.

With proliferation of such weapons causing increasing international concern, Western and East European governments have begun constructing a web of official contacts which they hope will enable them to control if not curb the menace.

It is the first such collaboration, and Western officials are greatly encouraged by the response of East European governments which, the sources say, have shown they share the West's perception of the threat and have demonstrated their determination to combat it.

The East European governments are expected in the new year to seek membership of an informal forum known as the Australia group, which meets twice a year in Paris to harmonise national export controls against the proliferation of chemical weapons.

Last month the first substantial steps in extending Western links to the former communist states were taken in London when delegations from 26 countries agreed to collate lists of up to fifty chemical substances subject to export controls. The aim is to harmonise lists and impose stricter enforcement on the materials and technologies involved in the manufacture of chemical weapons.

Curbing proliferation is made more difficult by the complexities of controlling substances which often have legitimate peaceful uses, particularly in developing countries. Furthermore, the more sophisticated the chemicals, the easier they are to hide.

The problems of verification are formidable and, until such a comprehensive ban is achieved, Western governments are continuing their piecemeal efforts to restrict the export of the ingredients of such weapons.

The six who are expected to collaborate in extending government controls are Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia.

The Soviet Union and America agreed in June to reduce their stocks of chemical weapons. Britain, which neither produces nor possesses chemical weapons, has played a leading part in extending controls over the export of their precursors and the related technology.

But export controls only buy time and increase the cost of acquiring an offensive chemical weapons capability, said one official. They could not stop a determined country from obtaining such a capability. There is concern, too, that terrorist groups could get hold of chemical weapons.

In a study for the Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism, Frank Barnaby, a specialist in military technology, said it would be virtually impossible to prevent terrorists getting hold of the chemicals needed to produce large quantities of nerve gas.

The most dangerous of the chemical agents required, he said, was Tabun because of the ease with which it could be made.

"Anyone who can handle chemicals reasonably competently can make Tabun," said Mr Barnaby. "No very special chemical apparatus is needed. A competent chemist could be hired if necessary by a terrorist group. Only a fraction of a litre of nerve agent would be needed to give such an organisation an enormous killing power," he said.

He expressed regret that Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, had not accepted his predecessor's death sentence. But the author said he was hopeful that the "trend towards understanding" that his affirmation of Islam had started would spread to Iran, whose inhabitants he described as a "logical people".

He said that the remarks in his novel, *The Satanic Verses*, that offended Muslims were only "the remarks of a character who had gone mad as a result of giving up Islam".

Over the past two years, he had had plenty of time to think and he had discovered the importance of religious faith.

Asked what he would say to his supporters who now accused him of surrendering to more important than his announcement stopping the publication of *The Satanic Verses* in paperback form.

It will be seen as the ultimate humiliation by a liberal intellectual who thought he could take on the power of Islam, a faith which, even in its mildest interpretations, has never been kind to those offending who have turned their backs on it.

As a belated discovery that Islam was superior to all other faiths and intellectual systems he knew of, Rushdie's conversion will not, however, be believed by too many people. For the past two years he has been under duress, and the world reserves judgment on all decisions made under duress.

Apparently Rushdie has still not realised that, for Iran, he is a mere pawn in the greater struggle with the West. Tehran interpreted his recent appearance in a London bookshop as proof of the British government's belief in the superiority of Western ways.

Rushdie has disappointed millions of his admirers everywhere who thought him a champion of free speech.

Rushdie to the rescue, page 10

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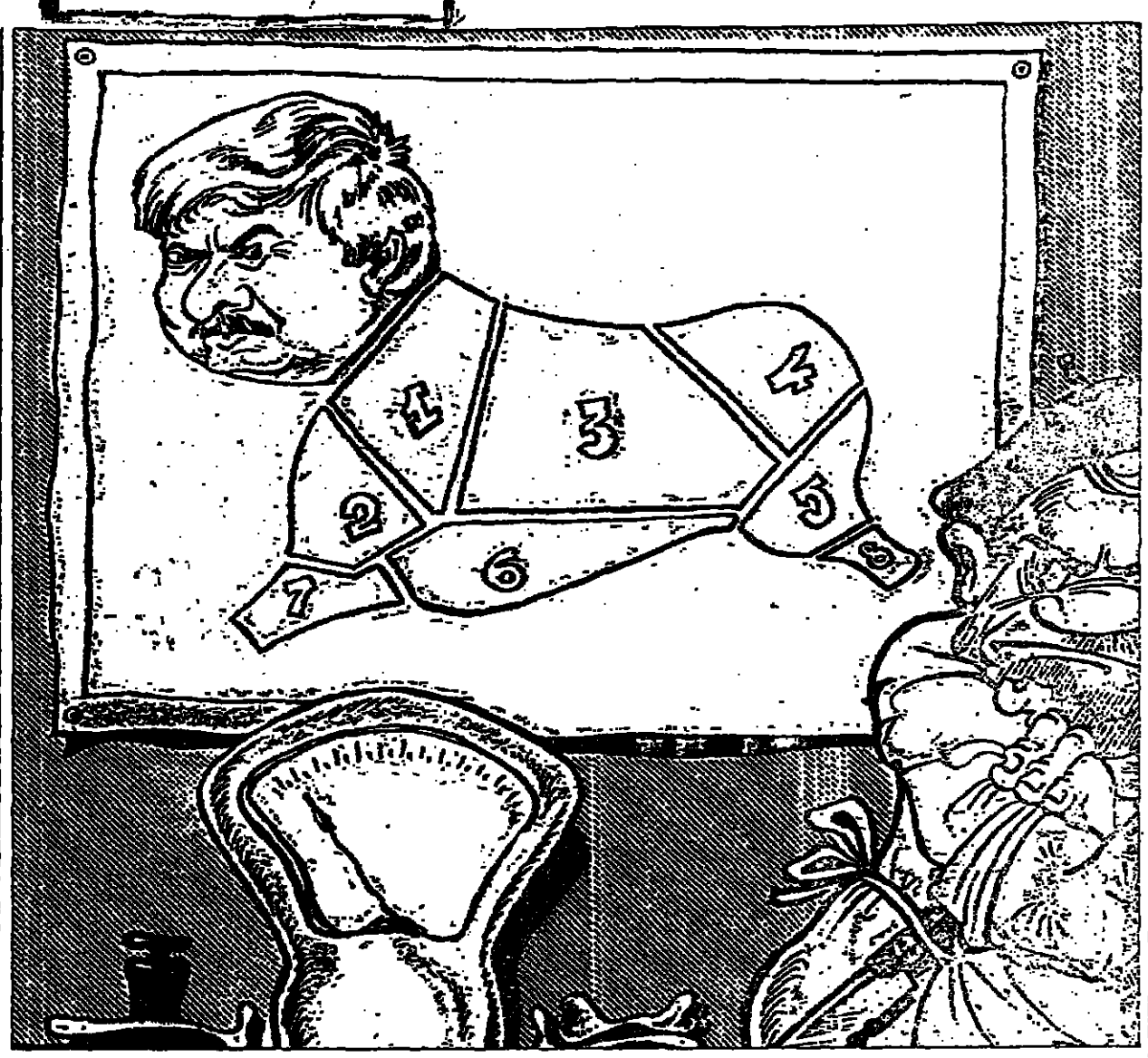
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Bones of contention: the Soviet Kommersant paper suggests a fate for Mr Popov amid meat shortages

## Racketeers foil Soviet 'Thatcher'

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

GAVRIIL Popov, the economics professor who is mayor of Moscow, reportedly delighted Britain's former prime minister with his free market ideas when they met here in June.

But the man whom British visitors have compared with "the young Margaret Thatcher" must surely be disappointed by the results of his efforts. The city council is attempting to solve the meat shortage. Its efforts are concerned not with the reality that virtually all the

meat it imports to Moscow is diverted or stolen before it reaches the state stores; but with the tiny proportion sold in supposedly free "peasant" markets.

As *Komsomolskaya Pravda* pointed out in an investigative report two weeks ago, these markets appear to the untrained eye to be flourishing as never before, in contrast to the desolate state-owned shops. Moscow must be one of the few places where apparent abundance of supply exerts no

pressure on prices; the market price of meat had doubled in six months to 30 roubles (£30) a kilogram, over 10 times the state price.

Margaret Thatcher would presumably have tried to beat the racketeers who control the existing 33 markets by opening another 33; but the city council decided to ban the sale of meat for more than 15 roubles a kilo. The Rizhsky market, a huge bazaar in northern Moscow controlled by racketeers, refused to enforce the decree, having dug

up a provision in Soviet law forbidding interference in transactions between individuals.

The police department which "combats the theft of socialist property" objected on the same grounds to having to enforce the decree.

So the directors of the Rizhsky and two other markets which refused to comply were sacked at the council's behest. The result is that some markets are making a fair show of enforcing the decree, but a well-bribed butcher can ensure that any meat sold at official prices is full of bone.

Nobody has suggested the free market solution of simultaneously facilitating supply, attacking monopolies and decontrolling prices. But that may have as much to do with the psychology of Mr Popov's voters as with his own deviations from Thatcherism. A genuinely free market in meat would still leave the price at eight or nine roubles a kilo, which would still be very expensive for most people. And there are Soviet as well as Western observers who believe that many a Muscovite will be less aggrieved by empty shop shelves, relieved by the occasional treat off the back of a lorry, than by a steady supply of food at high prices.

Ravaging a dream, page 10

## Rushdie makes direct plea to Iran on death sentence

By HAZRAT TEIMOURIAN

SALMAN Rushdie, the author who says he has embraced the Islamic faith, yesterday made a direct appeal to Iran to show understanding of his work and to lift the death sentence that Ayatollah Khomeini placed on him last year.

At the suggestion of the Islamic Society for Religious Tolerance, a group of moderate Muslim activists who were apparently instrumental in the author's drastic change of mind, Rushdie gave a seven-minute interview to the Persian section of the BBC World Service, to which millions of Iranians listen regularly.

He expressed regret that Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, had not accepted his predecessor's death sentence. But the author said he was hopeful that the "trend towards understanding" that his affirmation of Islam had started would spread to Iran, whose inhabitants he described as a "logical people".

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Rushdie to the rescue, page 10

death threats, he said that he would not describe his action as surrender. It was the result of discovering new principles. In his struggle to make peace with his would-be assassins, Rushdie's statement of conversion to Islam is far

more important than his announcement stopping the publication of *The Satanic Verses* in paperback form.

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Rushdie to the rescue, page 10

## Czechs move to free prices

Prague — The Czechoslovak government brought into effect its first cautious move towards freeing prices and exchange rates (a Correspondent writes).

The package of reforms marks the first step in the internal convertibility of the crown, in preparation for its entry on to world markets.

Vaclav Klaus, the finance minister, abolished the unfavourable business rate of exchange of the crown against foreign currencies, increasing its real value by 17 per cent. After consultations with the International Monetary Fund, he reluctantly agreed to retain state control of certain prices to guard against high inflation.

## Russian ripper

Moscow — Police in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don have arrested a man suspected of sexually abusing and murdering more than 30 women and young girls since 1982. The suspect was described as "a very good family man" with a university education. (Reuters)

## King undaunted

Geneva — King Michael of Romania, undaunted by his expulsion from his native land on Wednesday, said he wanted to return as a free citizen and would like to become constitutional monarch again. (Reuters)

## Heart trouble

Avignon — Georges Marchais, the French communist leader aged 70, left hospital after suffering from heart trouble and rejected any suggestion of retiring. He walked out of hospital unaided. (Reuters)

## Albanians flee

Ioannina — Nearly 600 Albanians have braved machine-gun fire and trekked through heavy snow this month to flee to Greece. The refugees are mostly from the large ethnic Greek community in southern Albania. (Reuters)

## New dinar rate

Belgrade — The Yugoslavian government is to devalue the dinar by 22.2 per cent against the mark to try to boost the country's crippled economy. Ante Markovic, the prime minister, said the exchange rate would be nine dinars to one mark, instead of seven. (Reuters)

## Hope honoured

New York — A proposed family history centre at Ellis Island, through which 17 million immigrants entered the United States, is to be named after Bob Hope, the comedian aged 87, who passed through Ellis Island as a British immigrant aged four. (AFP)

## ETHIOPIA 1984



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# America joins battle against opium growing in Laos

Despite efforts to get the Hmong people on the war-torn Plain of Jars to turn their skills to other crops, James Pringle finds that Laos is still the world's third largest producer of the opium which provides the West with much of its heroin

TURBANED women sit in little stalls near the market place beneath a faded sign extolling brotherly relations between the Vietnamese and Laotian armies. They hold small violin-shaped scales and produce dark brown-black sticky opium from their handbags. The drug is measured in fingertips—about 600 Lao kip (just under 50p) for a plug about half an inch long on the little finger, or 1,000 kip on the thumb.

"This is good-quality *phin*," the woman from the Hmong hill tribe, traditional growers of *phin*, as opium is known in much of South-east Asia, tells what she believes to be a prospective buyer. A fresh-faced girl holds out a similar fistful of this product of the poppy. "How much would you like?" she asks.

The Hmong minority people trek into this provincial capital on the Plain of Jars in north-

eastern Laos from their hill villages overlooking the 4,500ft high plateau. Here sit the more than a hundred sandstone jars, upwards of 6ft high and thought to date from the first century BC, which give the plain its name.

This was the main locale for the American "secret war" against the communist Pathet Lao and their North Vietnamese allies in the late 1960s and early 1970s. American and North Vietnamese-backed armies fought and from across the plain and Xieng Khouang city changed hands several times, being virtually obliterated in the process. This was not an infiltration route into south Vietnam, as was the Ho Chi Minh trail but, like the trail, the Plain of Jars and the surrounding mountains became one of the most heavily bombed regions on earth because they

guarded the road to Vientiane, the government capital, and Luang Prabang, the royal capital. Enormous craters from B52 carpet bombing still stretch as far as the eye can see.

Nowadays most Hmong deal in vegetables in the markets. A few sell opium, although not in commercial quantities. But US narcotics-control sources say a lot of Laotian opium is refined into heroin in illicit laboratories. Last year, they add, Laos was the world's third largest producer of opium, with 380 tonnes. Diplomatic sources in Vientiane say

they believe production this year will be down to 275 tonnes.

The communist government in Vientiane used to pretend that opium production was not a problem in Laos, but is now frank about the issue. America believes progress has been made, although an American government report early this year alleged that "a number of Lao military and government officials actively encourage and facilitate the trafficking of heroin", a charge denied by the officials.

The United States is co-operating in a \$4.5 million programme

of crop substitution. The idea is to persuade the hill tribes to keep cattle and grow rice and beans instead of the drug.

The Laotian government must tread warily with the hill people. Because they make up less than half the population, they have in the past felt discriminated against by the lowland Laotians, who in effect run the country.

A sporadic Hmong insurgency backed by Vang Pao still flickers in the mountains; the direct road to Vientiane from here is unsafe, locals say. "The Hmong have been cultivating opium for well

over a hundred years—it's their cash-crop and a way of life for them," Vongphet Xaykysa-chongtau, a ruling Lao People's Revolutionary party central committee member, said in Luang Prabang, the former royal capital. One of the highest ranking Hmong, he added: "The government will try to change the Hmong way of life by giving them more opportunity to raise cattle and eventually plant coffee and other crops. The Hmong agree to grow other crops but say they don't have roads to get them to market. That is why we need help in road-building."

Ultimately, he says, the problem can be eliminated only if there is no demand for heroin in America or other countries.

In Nong Hen, a Hmong village of 233 people, where the women puff on tobacco pipes and wear a mixture of traditional hill-tribe

garb and fake brand-name exercise suits from Thailand, a local official, Chia Kuto Muea, aged 47, says: "The village grows only a little opium for our own consumption—we still have four or five smokers here."

Mr Chia, who has two wives and 12 children, takes a visitor on a tour of the village.

Everywhere American bomb and shell casings are part of the architecture. "We are very poor," he says. "We need a fish pond, an irrigation system and a micro-hydroelectric station but we have no money."

During the war, he said, the hill above the village was so heavily bombed that it was reduced by 10ft in height; there had been anti-aircraft guns on it, he said. "There are still some Vang Pao supporters hiding in the forest," he said, adding: "But they don't give us any trouble."

## Plea for aid as Africa teeters on brink of a widespread famine

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SUB-Saharan Africa is facing famine on an unprecedented scale and will need substantial increases in food aid in 1991, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said yesterday.

Issuing its urgent appeal for food aid, the agency urged the developed countries not to let domestic economic constraints and concern for the problems of eastern Europe divert attention from the food needs of millions of Africans.

Detailed estimates of next year's aid requirements have not yet been completed, but the famine warning is based on data gathered by crop assessment missions which have visited the worst-affected countries.

The agency warned that widespread loss of life would be

inevitable in parts of Sudan and Ethiopia unless nearly two million tonnes of food aid arrives next year. Only 2.7 million tonnes of food aid were delivered to sub-Saharan Africa in 1989/90, compared with the 3.9 million tonnes pledged by donors.

But the FAO's early-warning system indicated a sharp increase in food aid requirements in 1990/91 compared with levels in the previous year. The combined effects of civil war and drought are responsible for the famine conditions in Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sudan and Liberia.

But two consecutive years of drought have reduced harvests in all of the countries bordering the Sahelian zone, from Mauritania in the west to Sudan and Ethiopia in the east, said Edouard Saouma, the director general of the FAO. In southern Africa late rains have delayed cereal planting and yields are likely to be reduced.

The FAO appealed for one million tonnes of food aid for Sudan and 985,000 tonnes for Ethiopia, warning that only early action will avert food shortages and widespread suffering. It said support was also needed for a UN-coordinated programme to deliver 110,000 tonnes of food to Angola, while Mozambique needed food aid already allocated but so far not shipped.

Field workers estimate that between five and six million people face starvation in Sudan and the FAO estimates that nearly 4.5 million Ethiopians need emergency relief.

Food aid to the 46 developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa totalled 4.1 million tonnes this year and substantially more will be required next year. The FAO said the international community could help Africa by buying food surpluses from fertile parts of countries such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal and transporting them to famine-hit areas.

Kenya has 200,000 tonnes of maize available for export, and Zimbabwe has so far contracted 400,000 tonnes, but another 50,000 tonnes are still available.

The FAO's assessment is supported by British aid agencies. "1991 is going to be a horrific year because the crisis is wider and the resources fewer," said Mark Bowden, Save the Children's Africa director.

He put the number in need at around 20 million and said it was not unrealistic to talk in terms of the need for a Marshall Plan for



Fruitless toil: a woman breaking up drought-hardened soil at Atsibi, near Wilko in the Tigré province of northern Ethiopia

## World aid agencies brace for disaster

By ALICE THOMSON

JUST before Christmas John Magrath, a spokesman for Oxfam, received a telex from a worker in the Ethiopian province of Eritrea. It said: "Terrible drought. Animals dying. People already on the move."

A million people died in the Horn of Africa six years ago before the international community began to mobilise relief. Now the famine looks as though it may be ten times worse if immediate action is not taken.

"In a couple of months this place will be hell," said Tamret Haile Miskal, a senior ministry of agriculture official who has just seen the state of the main sorghum crop in Negeso. Two Oxfam workers, John Wilding and Trish Silkin, said there was near total crop failure in Eritrea. "There is a complete lack of grazing, and livestock is in a terrible position. Water levels have fallen below the bottom of many wells," they said.

Political turmoil is exacerbating the position as millions flee both war and famine. The Islamic military government in Sudan has blocked aid intended for the hungry in the rebellious south. There is also growing evidence that food has been sent to Iraq in return for ammunition and arms to prosecute the war against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. A year ago Sudan had a million tonnes of grain in reserve, equivalent to four months national consumption. This has now disappeared.

The Sudanese government only recently conceded that there is a food problem. It denies, however, that Sudan faces famine, calling it instead a manageable food shortage. Across the border the Ethiopian government has been accused of bombing the port of Massawa, which is held by the rebel Eritrean Front but is urgently needed as a distribution centre for supplies.

Hjoe Devries, of World Vision, said of a Mozambique village he visited: "When we first landed here most people were lying in their huts just dying. The cemetery was the only place with moving people, crawling, slowly digging graves and burying piles of bodies. It dawned on us there was a major famine here."

Nicholas Hinto, director of Save the Children, said: "It is not a question of one being more important than the other. What would be tragic is the one overshadowing the other. Sudan and Ethiopia face devastating crop failure. In the Soviet Union the real problem is not so much one of shortage as the management of political and economic transition."

With the ceasefire in Liberia and peace prospects in Angola, we must seize this opportunity to help," said Mr Bowden.

The Overseas Development Administration is providing £124,000 to finance the fund's efforts in Liberia for the first six months. Andrew Timpson, a Save the Children programme officer, said that the presence of a West African peace-keeping force had made it possible for the fund to establish itself in Monrovia, the Liberian capital.

In Angola, Save the Children is undertaking responsibility for distributing food aid in Huambo, one of nine central and southern provinces which are severely affected by the war and the drought. The operation will be under the umbrella of the UN special relief programme for Angola (SRPA) which has received the approval of the government and been accepted by the rebels.

Save the Children will run a transport programme involving the purchase of ten lorries and the setting up of a mechanical workshop, food storage facilities and staff. The estimated cost of the programme is £750,000.

ANGRY residents of Soweto helped police hunt a gang suspected of the Christmas rape of eight teenage girls dragged screaming from a Salvation Army boarding school, police said yesterday.

Gang rape is a constant danger in Soweto, an overcrowded, crime-ridden black township of more than two million people southwest of Johannesburg.

A Salvation Army officer said 20 to 30 youths smashed their way into Bethany girls' home and school early on Christmas day and abducted nine girls aged between 15 and 17.

According to the police, they gang-raped eight of the girls, who are now in hospital. The ninth girl is missing. Salvation Army officials said the gang also stole Christmas presents, food and clothes set aside for the 72 girls at the school, some of whom are as young as four.

The thieves returned to steal more goods and smash property on December 26, cutting the school's telephone line and promising to return yet again.

During a sweep of local bars, "the community apprehended three of the youths and they pointed out their friends," Joseph Ngweni, a Soweto police captain, said. Eight suspects were now detained for questioning.

## De Klerk says black violence is serious obstacle to reform

FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

A VIOLENT campaign to destroy black town councils has become a serious obstacle to constitutional negotiations, President de Klerk said yesterday. Addressing the annual congress of the Labour Party, a Cape-based Coloured (mixed race) organization, Mr de Klerk expressed dismay over an offensive by groups allied to the African National Congress against township councils deemed to be vestiges of apartheid.

"In view of our declared commitment to replace the present system of local government by a new and democratic system in which ethnic fragmentation will be avoided, I find these destabilising actions totally unnecessary and illegitimate," he said.

Mr de Klerk also took issue with black leaders who were creating obstacles to negotiations by setting new conditions and ultimatums, and made it clear that his patience was wearing thin. "South Africa cannot wait forever. We want and we need all leaders on board. It will be a grave pity if some of them were to miss the boat." In particular, he appealed to them to lead

their followers away from chronic political violence plaguing townships in Natal and the Transvaal.

"Blaming others for the violence merely fans the flames of hatred. Leaders should take responsibility for the violence of their own people. It is a responsibility they cannot escape."

Pledging tougher security measures, he said those who persisted with violence would be swept aside by the majority who wanted peace and progress.

In his last public speech of a momentous year, Mr de Klerk spelled out the rationale of his initiatives towards multi-racial democracy. "There is no vacant land left to fight over. There is nothing to be taken or withheld from one another. There is nothing to be destroyed that is not our own. There is, within our borders, no one to conquer and to rule over but ourselves. That is what this process of transformation is all about. We must find ways and means of ruling, not each other, but jointly ourselves."

That said, Mr de Klerk made it clear his National Party intended to remain an influential force.

The standing ovation accorded Mr de Klerk by more than 1,000 delegates was hardly surprising, since he was preaching to a converted minority of conservative Coloureds who have been prepared to go along with the tricameral parliamentary system from which blacks are excluded.

But as mixed-race majorities marched around to the uncertain rhythm of a school brass band, the president beamed his approval. However humble, it was a gesture of support for his dramatic reforms, and he was clearly gratified.

## Angolan airport bombed

FROM AGENCIES IN LUANDA

PRESIDENT dos Santos of Angola inspected damage at Luanda's international airport yesterday, hours after a bomb blast ripped through the passenger terminal causing extensive damage and injuring three people.

Officials blamed the explosion, which occurred on Thursday night, on Unita, the American-backed rebel group fighting a 15-year war against the Soviet-supported MPLA government. Unita has recently stepped up attacks in and around Luanda.

However, Unita promptly denied responsibility and suggested that dissent within MPLA ranks might have led to the explosion. And earlier yesterday, an anonymous telephone caller to the TSF radio station in Lisbon, Portugal, claimed he represented another rebel group which had carried out the bombing.

The caller said he was from the National Front for the Liberation of Angola or FNLA, which was defeated by government forces in the mid-1970s.

The bomb badly damaged the passenger check-in area and destroyed the VIP lounge. Officials estimated the cost of repair at \$1 million (£527,000), but the airport remained operational.

Hopes for peace in Angola have been raised by talks this month between Unita and American, Soviet and Portuguese diplomats. Unita officials are to meet an MPLA delegation in Portugal next month for their sixth meeting this year. The MPLA agreed this month to end one-party rule in preparation for free elections.

## Eight held after Soweto gang rapes schoolgirls

FROM REUTERS IN JOHANNESBURG

ANGRY residents of Soweto helped police hunt a gang suspected of the Christmas rape of eight teenage girls dragged screaming from a Salvation Army boarding school, police said yesterday.

Gang rape is a constant danger in Soweto, an overcrowded, crime-ridden black township of more than two million people southwest of Johannesburg.

A Salvation Army officer said 20 to 30 youths smashed their way into Bethany girls' home and school early on Christmas day and abducted nine girls aged between 15 and 17.

According to the police, they gang-raped eight of the girls, who are now in hospital. The ninth girl is missing. Salvation Army officials said the gang also stole Christmas presents, food and clothes set aside for the 72 girls at the school, some of whom are as young as four.

The thieves returned to steal more goods and smash property on December 26, cutting the school's telephone line and promising to return yet again.

During a sweep of local bars, "the community apprehended three of the youths and they pointed out their friends," Joseph Ngweni, a Soweto police captain, said. Eight suspects were now detained for questioning.

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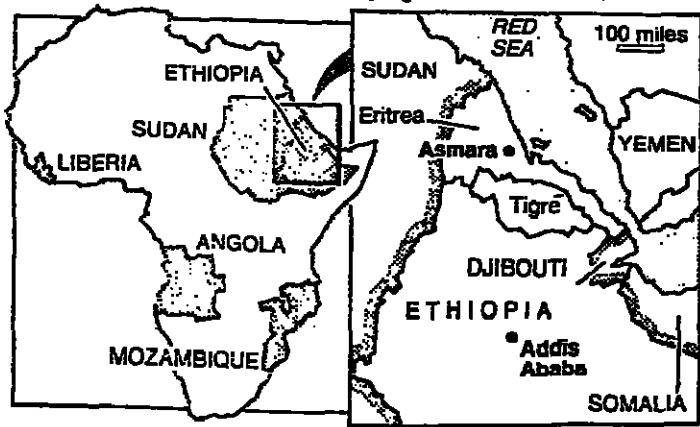
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## Attack on Kinsey's sex research triggers new shock waves

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FOUR decades ago, Alfred Kinsey shocked conservative postwar America with two monumental studies laying bare Americans' sexual behaviour. Now, a book attacking his research methods is causing new shock waves.

The best-selling Kinsey reports, *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male* (1948) and *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female* (1953), found that variety was the spice of Americans' sex lives, no less than 10 per cent of the population was homosexual, and infants were sexually active. Kinsey's conclusions underpinned the sexual

revolution of the 1960s and still dominate academic discussion of sex. But now, in the age of AIDS and the conservative backlash, that orthodoxy is under attack, and the late Kinsey is being accused of fraud.

A new book charges that the founding father of sexuality was biased towards bisexuality and manipulated his results to support his prejudice. And the work, *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud: The Indocination of a People* by Dr Judith Reisman and Edward Eichel, suggests that Kinsey was involved in illegal sexual research with children.

"It really looks like Kinsey was

pushing an agenda," said Mr Eichel, a Manhattan psychoanalyst. "To me it has two aspects: child sex and bisexuality." Though published by a small press in Louisiana, the book—described on the cover by Patrick Buchanan, a right-wing columnist, as "social dynamite"—has caused an uproar.

"Far out on the grassy knoll of sexuality, there is a cult of pro-chastity researchers who claim that the late Alfred Kinsey was a secret sex criminal," Dr Mengele who bent his numbers to the bisexual and the bizarre in a grand conspiracy to queer the nation and usher in an era of free sex with

kids," wrote *The Village Voice*, the liberal New York weekly. "But what really riles these critics is Kinsey's towering cultural influence." The conservative *Washington Times* countered: "If their case against Kinsey is true, it ought to castrate much of the sexual liberation industry in the country."

Dr Reisman and Mr Eichel claim that up to 25 per cent of Kinsey's interview subjects for the male study of 1948 were prison inmates and sex offenders. The authors also question Kinsey's method of collecting information about pre-adolescent sexuality. Kinsey said he collected

information from admitted paedophiles who kept records of their encounters with children. But Dr Reisman and Mr Eichel write: "Somewhere and some time in the course of the project, Kinsey appears to have directed experimental sex research on several hundred children aged two months to almost 15 years."

The Kinsey Institute founded by the pioneer dentist the authors' claims, ignoring the book's call for a full investigation.

The institute's attempt to stifle the allegations, by asking a local radio station not to broadcast a talk programme on the subject, has only added to the controversy.



Kinsey: research methods come under scrutiny







# Musical chairs, parcel-passing and the virtue of an early night

Paddy Ashdown will be partying with the party, Jeffrey Archer will be preparing to see John Major. Victoria McKee discovers who will, and who will not, be wide awake at midnight on Monday

Maureen Lipman: "We largely manage to do it so as not to insult our guests. We have a New Year's Eve party where we have to sing 'I saw the old homestead and the faces I love...' Ringing the old year out and the new year in... first with gestures and words and then with just gestures. This year I am trying to get a piper but have been having a bit of trouble. Generally we wait to see if anyone else is having a New Year's Eve party and if we do not get invited we have one. You can always do the depressed new year and say, 'I hate all that enforced jollity'. But that is just another kind of enforcement. Then there is the one where you go away for new year and that is even worse, because you're hugging and kissing people you do not know, who might have anything. This is supposed to be a 'come as you were' party. You come dressed as a favourite period in your life. Or an M.D.I. party, these are my initials and they also stand for 'mutton dressed as lamb'. Jack [Rosenthal, her husband] is going in a Navy demob outfit and probably I shall get a Babygro, or go for the Sixties with bags of make-up and earrings. I am hoping to play pass-the-parcel and musical chairs and



maybe I shall ask everybody to play dead lions and go to sleep on the floor, but at our age maybe we shall all go to sleep. I used to play that when the kids were small. It gives you time to take a Nurofen when they are all lying down."

Shirley Conran: "I don't. I make a point of going to bed very early on New Year's Eve so that I can wake up feeling very virtuous at 5am on New Year's day and make my list of resolutions."

Barbara Cartland: "Speeches. We all make speeches. If you can speak with your family all sniggering at you, the Albert Hall is nothing at all. I am hoping my grandchildren will come to me for New Year's Eve - my daughter, Raine, and her husband, Earl Spencer, came for Christmas - and we always make speeches with family jokes in them. I am very annoyed that none of my films will be on television on New Year's Eve. As for champagne, we



Night owl: Debbie Moore never has any trouble staying awake on New Year's Eve, or any other night

have quite enough of that during the day and I do not like to drink too much because of my arthritis."

Jeffrey Archer: "We have no trouble staying up, as we always have a party at the Old Vicarage, Grantchester, with tremendously fierce competitions and games. We change partners for quizzes, because nobody is allowed to keep their own for a game. I end up with a judge's wife who is very bright and my wife, Mary, ends up with the judge. Mary sets an impossible quiz and the questions she sets are the only problem, not staying awake. The quiz usually ends at midnight and since we are going to spend New Year's day with John Major, I imagine we will not stay up too late."

Paddy Ashdown: "I have no trouble staying awake until midnight on New Year's Eve because we always tend to go away to ski after Christmas - I won't tell you where, for love nor money - with a vast crowd, a large collection of Liberal Democrats. Yes, there is such a thing! And there is always a great deal of jollity, and the French certainly keep us awake."

Joan Collins: "I shall have no trouble staying up this year,



because I'll be on stage at the Aldwych until 10.30pm in *Private Lives*. I am a night person anyway, and after a show the adrenalin is particularly high. On New Year's Eve after the show I shall be celebrating with a few friends."

Jane Asher: "We are not late stayers-uppers usually, but on New Year's Eve there should be no trouble. My brother is over from America and some other friends



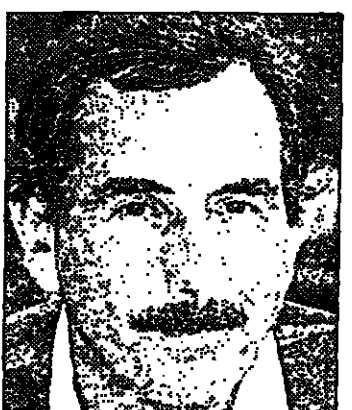
will be coming and we are going to let all the children stay up. For my cake shop I have done some wonderful new year's cakes with 1991 bursting out of an old grey 1990. We shall probably just be eating some of our Christmas cake, in the shape of a big Christmas tree."

Lady Antonia Fraser: "I shall stay up until midnight playing bridge. It is a very good way to see in the new year - if you win. I do not do it every year, but I shall this."

Sir James Savile: "The first half of the evening will be spent at Stoke Mandeville hospital, and the second I'm going to see some friends who are having a New Year's Eve ball at the health farm they run near the hospital. It will be my

first try at having a 'normal' New Year's Eve. I'll be changing out of my tracksuit into evening dress, which will give me a chance to wear my medal."

Hunter Davies: "Usually we go to bed at 10pm but we make a big exception on New Year's Eve and stay up until 10.15pm. We review the family highlights of the year - good holidays, somebody passing a driving test - and then we do the family, and world, predictions for the year ahead. If somebody is pregnant, we predict the sex. That sort of thing. And we read the previous year's predictions and check who has got it right. We never predict bad news and we always have a little section called 'topics bugging us at the moment', such as the roof letting in, or why the car has not been mended. It is



good looking back at the year past and realising that such things pass. We never thought our daughter Caitlyn would be in Botswana this year. We keep all the predictions in a folder that used to include the children's weight and height charts, but now that Flora is 18 and has stopped growing and will not reveal her weight we have stopped that. Only Jake will be at home with us this year, I think."

Susan Hampshire: "It is sometimes quite hard to stay awake but this year it is going to be very easy because I do not finish my performance of *The King and I* until 10.30pm and will not have my make-up off until 10.45pm and then I have to decide whether to try to dash back to London to see the new year in with my husband [Eddie Kukulundis] or sit in my hotel room watching television, and drinking maybe nothing. I shall not go to sleep, because the adrenalin is too high after a show. I like to be with my husband, but I do not like to be at a big party. I think it is very unpleasant to be in the wrong environment, or to have too much to drink."

Debbie Moore: "I never have any trouble staying awake. I am a party person and a night person. I do not leap up early in the morning and start exercising, whatever people might think."

Judge James Pickles: "I have no trouble staying up until midnight and hope to see in this new year with my wife and three children and five grandchildren, and another expected. We shall have champagne if somebody has been kind enough to give me some over Christmas. It is a very ordinary, provincial, way of seeing in the new year, I am afraid."

Zandra Rhodes: "I never go to bed before midnight. But I shall not stay up too late on New Year's Eve because I shall be back at work on New Year's day. I do not approve of these days off. It is bad for the economy. I am pretty sure I shall



be going to Andrew Logan's, who will have his usual party."

Dr Wendy Savage: "I shall not be on call, although I have been. This year I shall be in New Zealand. I usually go to a party with friends and have no trouble staying awake. Last year I gave a party with three friends, there was so much to do we did not have time to feel sleepy. Some years, when I have not had a party to go to, I have gone to bed early, depressed - but not recently."

Detla Smith: "I can tell you how I kept awake last year - sitting and watching Clive James doing the decade, one of the greatest programmes. I normally have trouble staying awake, but this year I am having some friends to dinner. We shall try some recipes from my Christmas book - Stilton soup, goose with prunes in armagnac and sticky toffee pudding. That should keep us awake."

Professor Heinz Wolff: "By and large my wife and I tend not to stay up. I am not a great one for forced festivity to the point that I find Christmas rather a stressful time. I do not know why people do it. For people who lead fairly eventful lives the idea of a holiday is not to have a knee-up. For people with more humdrum lives a change is as good as a rest. For me a rest is as good as a rest."



On parade: Councillor David Avery with a Tennessee drum majorette

## Wakey, wakey, it's the chain gang

New year revellers sleeping it off in the streets of London will get a rude awakening

THERE will be no peace on New Year's day for any of the human wreckage left over from the night before in Westminster's streets. From about 8am, revellers in the vicinity of Berkeley Square and Piccadilly can expect to share their concrete and asphalt beds with some strange guests. These will include Miss Christmas and the Christmas Children, Henry VIII, the Graunde Order of Guisers, the Batmobile, various clowns and pearly kings and queens, Rani the elephant, the Bearskins, Morris men, Gerry Cottle's circus and comedy car, and many other floats and American marching bands, including the David Crockett high school, Texas.

This will be the fifth new year in succession that the Lord Mayor of Westminster's parade has marched from Berkeley Square, along Piccadilly, up Regent Street, along Oxford Street, past Marble Arch and into Hyde Park, via the Cumberland Gate, beginning at 12.30pm and ending at around dusk. The parade was initiated to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the City of Westminster in 1585, and the momentum shows no sign of abating. Each year there are 85 bands, floats or acts participating.

All this may come as a surprise to those who did not know that Westminster even had a lord mayor. Recently, the current lord mayor, Councillor David Avery, was at a public ceremony in full regalia. "Who are these people?" he overheard an American woman ask a policeman. The policeman hesitated, unwilling to display ignorance. "They're an old English custom, madam," he said. The lord mayor most people have heard of is the Lord Mayor of London - who is not, of course, Lord Mayor of London at all. He is Lord Mayor of the City of London, the small patch of dealing rooms and trading floors that corresponds roughly to the area that was once enclosed by London's city walls.

The Lord Mayor of London lives in the Mansion House, a Palladian villa, designed by George Dance the Elder and completed in 1753, with a portico carrying a relief that represents the dignity and opulence of the City. The Lord Mayor of Westminster has a flat at the top of Westminster City Hall, an anonymous 19-storey, sixties office block in Victoria Street.

But the City of London has had a mayor for 800 years and a lord

mayor since the beginning of the 16th century, while Westminster has only had its mayor since 1900, and its lord mayor since 1965.

Councillor Avery is not against a little friendly rivalry between the two cities, even though the contests so regularly with the Lord Mayor of London and the mayors of the other London boroughs, that they are known as "the chain gang".

"In the City," he says, "the business community determines the form of local government. One couldn't argue that it is an exemplar of modern democracy." He defends Westminster's "open-door policy", which has always attracted foreigners, while the City's trade protection measures, tended traditionally to exclude them.

The Lord Mayor of London's show takes place, by act of parliament, on the second Saturday of November, and is based on the procession that the new lord mayor had to make each year to swear loyalty to the king at his court.

The show still includes representatives of the livery companies that are the descendants of the medieval craftsmen's guilds, as well as floats representing trade organisations and finance houses. The theme of this year's

show was: "Moving Ahead: Europe and the 1992 Single Market."

There is a point to the lord mayor's show, or so the City likes to think. The point of the Lord Mayor of Westminster's Parade, according to Councillor Avery, is just sheer fun. The only "theme" lies in the destination of the money raised for charity: last year it went to clubs for the elderly; this year it will go to provide extras for youth clubs.

"All I have to do," the lord mayor says, "is load the parade in the coach with Edna [the lady mayoress] and the girls, and wave to the crowds. Then at the grandstand, I stand up and remove my feathered tricorn hat as the floats go by. The only other thing I have to remember is to wear thermal underwear under my mayoral robes."

So save your sympathy instead for Rani the elephant and the parade's other warm-blooded, skimpily-clad and resolutely non-traditional creatures: they will be congregating with the drunks in the cold of Berkeley Square, as you lie snug beneath the blankets at 8am on New Year's day.

CALLUM MURRAY

*'I have to remember to wear thermal underwear under my mayoral robes'*

### Events in town

#### THIS WEEKEND

● 60th model engineer exhibition: Diamond jubilee year, with model engineers from all over the country exhibiting work. 900 entries in the national model competition include boats, aircraft, trains and military figures. The Great West Halls, Alexandra Palace, London N22 (081-365 2171). Today until Jan 6, early 10am to 6pm, Jan 3 extended opening to 8pm. Adult £4.25, child £2.

● Holiday activities at Hampton Court: Today traditional family and team games, many with a Tudor theme. Tomorrow storytelling with Roberto Laguardo, Queen's gallery. Meet in the battery kitchens. Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey (081-977 7222). Today 10.30am and 2pm, tomorrow 1.30pm and 3pm. Admission 50p, plus normal palace admission.

● Winter wonder day: The winter world of animals and plants and visit to the farm. Capel Manor Environmental Centre, Theobalds Park, Enfield (0992 763849). Today 10am to 12 noon, 2pm to 4pm. Adult free, child £1.

● Laserium shows: Laser Fantasies, from the musical version of H.G. Wells's "War of the Worlds" and Laser Trax - rock music and state-of-the-art lasers. The Laserium at the London Planetarium, Marylebone Road, London NW1.

Today, tomorrow. Further information (071-486 2242).

● Science Museum Christmas event: Professor Pepper presents a Victorian science lecture and ghost illusion for children, nine and over. Science Museum, Lecture Theatre, Exhibition Road, London SW7. Today until December 31, and Jan 2, 3pm. Tickets free from the information desk.

#### NEXT WEEK

● English silver treasures at the Kremlin: Rare Elizabethan and Stuart silver. Sotheby's 34/35 New Bond Street, London W1. (071-493 8080). Tues to Jan 28, weekdays 10am to 5pm, Sun noon to 5pm. Free.

● Collectors festival: Annual event with more than 100 dealers buying and selling. Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1. Tues 8.30am to 5pm, Sat, Sun noon to 5pm. Admission before 10am £5, after £1.

● Holiday on ice: Family spectacular - this year Around the World in 80 Days. The Brighton Centre, King's Road, Brighton, East Sussex. Thurs until Jan 27. Information and booking (0273-202881).

● 37th International boat show: All the latest models, from luxury yachts to sailboards. Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5. Thurs until Jan 13, Mon to Fri 10am to 7pm, Sat, Sun 10am to 8pm. Adult £6, child £3.

JUDY FROSHAUG

### Help: Sue Rorstad, maid service

## Human clean machine

SUE Rorstad likes to say that her company, Poppies, offers a maid-to-measure service. If you phone a local Poppies franchise - there are now 70 across the United Kingdom, making it the biggest service of its kind - the franchisee should insist on a personal interview of up to two hours. Ms Rorstad says, "We like to see you in your own environment." She says, "We don't just provide a service to a property, we service a customer, and to do so we need to know about your needs and expectations."

Your Poppies, as Mrs Rorstad calls her employees ("It saves the awkward decision over whether to call them girls or ladies"), needs to know whether you are the sort who likes to see her face in the kitchen floor, but does not care if the bedroom floor is littered with clothes and magazines. "You might not want anyone else to throw away your mouldy vegetables or old newspapers - or you



Poppy appeal: Sue Rorstad with two of her 'ladies'

large Victorian house in Dartington, county Durham, and has Poppies of her own - whom she pays about £40 a week to do a swift, six-hour blitz. But she is adamant about not discussing rates, since "every job is different and needs to be individually quoted for". However, she will reveal that "you'd be hard put to have a one-off job done for less than £10 an hour in the north, closer to £20 in London" - regular customers pay about half those rates.

A former local government officer, Mrs Rorstad hit on the idea for her business after the birth of her two children. "I was the major breadwinner and was looking for a job I could do from home," she says. "All my franchisees are professional women who understand what is needed. We have teachers, accountants, even a solicitor, though she likes to keep it quiet."

VICTORIA MCKEE

● Check the Yellow Pages for Poppies franchise, or phone the head office on 0125 483699.

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Home from home: Mary Ann Pilain

# Hogmanay without tears

Mary Ann Pilain, chatelaine of Lickleyhead Castle, is in control. At least so far. The caviar arrived from France in her husband Jean Jacques' hand baggage along with the fresh herbs. The truffles - 10lb last year - are coming off an Air France flight from Paris with one of their guests. And the plumage has discovered, to Mme Pilain's eternal relief, the master switch for the hot water system. There are nightmares and nightmares, but none so terrifying as new year in a 17th century Scottish castle without hot water. And 17 in the house.

By tonight the Aberdeenshire tower house will be what Mme Pilain, a Texan with a doctorate in French history, terms "heaving with Frogs". There will be the Pilains and their partners in Lickleyhead, the Reimers and the Delamarches (including *grand-mère*), a gaggle of French friends and the sole United Kingdom representative, Adrian Crutwell-Vaughn.

Mr Crutwell-Vaughn, an old family friend, is dubbed "fitch and carry" by Mme Pilain. He can be entrusted to go out and fetch for last minute essentials such as electric blankets and lobsters. He is also the only one capable of explaining the mysteries of British electrical sockets to the disbelieving French.

The Pilains have been leasing Lickleyhead on and off since 1972 from a family of Aberdeenshire Leslies, and two years ago decided to rent it long term with the Delamarches and Reimers. The Pilains and their two teenage children, Guillaume and Charlotte, spend about two months of the year there. M Pilain recently sold his financial communications business in Paris and can now concentrate on his first love, shooting in Scotland.

"I've learnt a lot in 20 years," Mme Pilain says. "I know when to say 'good shot, darling', when to read my book, and not to say 'oh poor little thing'."

This new year the castle is just about the way Mme Pilain wants it. The massive sofa, or rather one of the massive sofas, in the panelled first floor drawing-room has been re-covered in a paleish blue chintz. Norman Strommach, the painter, has ragged the paneling for a second time - it was too green last time round. The drawing-room chimney, which started to smoke for the first time since

the last big restoration, in 1629, has been refined, and was working in time for Christmas. There are new electrical sockets all over the place, although, as Mme Pilain says, "in a castle with 88-thick walls you cannot always have them where you want them".

The bathrooms are masterpieces of the plumber's art, from the Twenties onward. Into one 5ft-diameter turret has been squeezed a hip bath, a battery of chrome taps, a shower, a lavatory and washbasin. Another turret has been turned into a circular shower for the dormitory area in the attic. It is tiled from floor to roof in the Leslie family crest.

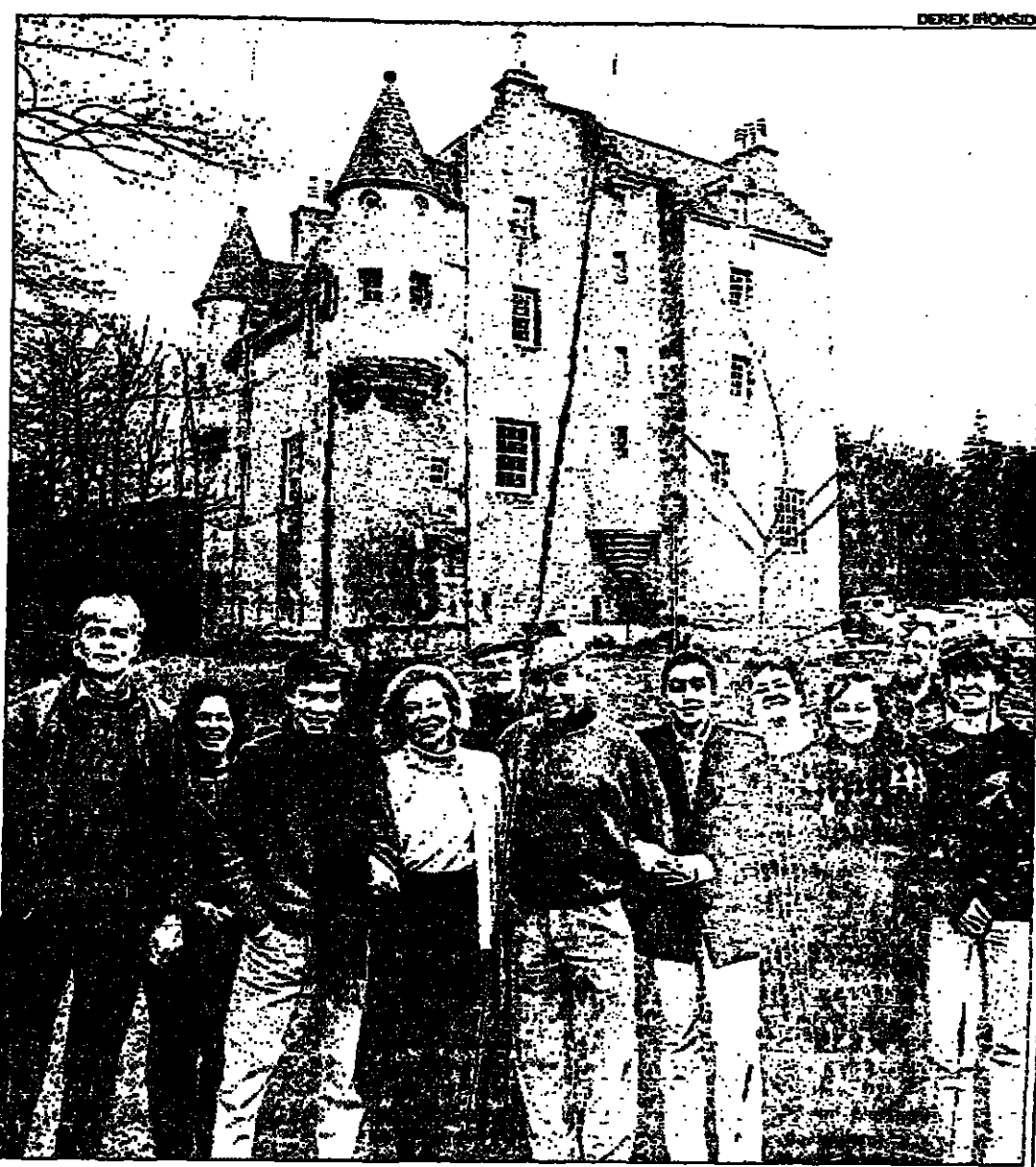
Apart from minor adjustments, such as making sure pairs of chairs have not been split up, anything vital has been handled by Yvonne Nobes, the live-out housekeeper, who will always waitress at dinner parties, although she has been known to pop out between courses at lambing time. "I am not sure it wasn't, perhaps, calves last time we were here," Mme Pilain says.

Supplies of lamb, beef, ham and turkey for ten days were ordered from Ernest the butcher in Inch by telephone three weeks ago from the Pilain apartment in Avenue de Villiers. "Ernest has the best beef anywhere," Mme Pilain says. "We get everything we need locally."

The fish was from Macdoff's delivered, among other things, the kippers which M Pilain favours for breakfast. On the day after their arrival Mme Pilain and Mr Crutwell-Vaughn descended upon Willie Low's, the Inverurie supermarket, with a massive grocery list. "It all needs a bit of planning," says Mme Pilain, who keeps track with the aid of what she calls "a critical flowchart" - a French school exercise book.

Helen Forster, the cook, arrived in time for Christmas on the night train from London, with the proviso that she would lift not so much as a butter knife if Mme Pilain had not taped a crucial episode of *LA Law*. "We think it worked," says Mme Pilain.

On Christmas Eve - which the French celebrate rather than Christmas day - the Pilains sat down to *foie gras*, turkey, Christmas pudding which had been fed brandy since August and a Texas Christmas cake bulging with pecan nuts. There was a debate between the French and the Scots contingents whether cheese was to be before or after pudding.



French polish: Madame Pilain with family and helpers bring continental style to New Year's Eve

After presents on Christmas day was brunch. "Bacon, eggs, sausages and my Mexican chilli beans - the powder is from Hernandez grocery in Dallas," Mme Pilain says.

The men and, sometimes, the women have been shooting around the countryside since Boxing Day. Helen, the cook, has moved out to a friend's just down the road to make space for the last intake of French before new year.

Hogmanay is still undecided, particularly as the critical flowchart has so far failed to confirm the arrival of the fiddlers and

pipers who were such a success last year. "Well, you see, we dance reels, and we are terribly bad of course, but friends who live here keep us right - after a fashion," Mme Pilain says.

Even though it is not certain how many will see in the new year at Lickleyhead, the flowchart allows for massive quantities of caviar, smoked salmon and lobster. At midnight *Auld Lang Syne* will be sung and there will be much kissing and handshaking.

Last year Lickleyhead was "first footed" after midnight by the traditional tall, dark stranger, a friend of friends, clutching a piece of coal, the source of heat and, therefore, good luck. Much whisky will be drunk, Glendronach or Glengarioch being the local brews. Some first footers will be bringing their own, it being considered polite, although not obligatory, to exchange drams at new year.

"What I would love," Mme Pilain says, "would be a standard for the castle. It would be the finishing touch. How about a frog rampant holding a thistle in one hand and the yellow rose of Texas in the other?"

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

# Mutton, turnips and a hash

THIS is my first new year as a farmer. The past nine months feel like a decade; hardly a minute has passed during which some obscure agricultural point has not been occupying my mind. But what seemed at the time to be moments of indecisive agony fade into insignificance when compared with current anguish. There is always one problem that seems bigger than the last.

Currently, the sheep's dental arrangements are giving me cause for concern. Having sown turnips in the spring, hoed them through the long, hot summer and watched them alternately flourish and perish as each mean shower of rain gave way to scorching heat, I now find them ready to feed to the sheep. I have arranged matters on a cafeteria basis, simply turning the flock onto the field and telling them to get on with it. Since they had never seen a field of turnips in their short lives, it was like watching children trying to master the removing of a top from a boiled egg.

First of all they trotted around the field bleating. Then they looked at me, longing for some instant junk-food from a bucket. I stomped off warning them that they had to eat what they were given or starve. The warning was sufficiently sharp for even Flash the sheepdog to look upon the flock with sympathy.

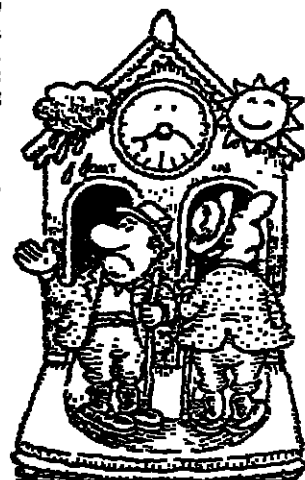
As I have discovered, with farm animals it is all or nothing. Once the ewes had got the taste for the turnips, the entire field was cleared. Except that, on close examination, I can see that the turnips have been gnawed level with the ground but no further. Half of each turnip still lies buried unwatered. I tried my maternal approach and ordered them to dig up and eat their greens. It had no effect.

The question is: will the sheep, when hungry, dig down, any further to remove the other half of the turnip or do I have to go round picking them out one by one, turning the running buffet into a laborious silver service? I don't know the answer.

Of course, if it rains it will make the roots looser in the ground, which would be good. But if the land gets too wet, the sheep will ruin it. So I had better hope for a freeze. Except that then the turnips would be rooted forever and I would have to play waiter again.

I am coming to the conclusion that farming is one long conundrum which is never solved. So I don't make decisions; I gamble. When I choose badly I can always claim in mitigation that it would have worked fine had it not been for the wet/dry/thaw/dry/hot/cold weather. If this seems like a cowardly way out, I am now of the belief that this is the way farmers have been operating for years. A clue came in a poem sent to me by a Suffolk farmer whose mother originally wrote it. May I offer you these verses both as a memorial to my first nine months as a farmer and a dear hint of things to come.

The Farmer will never be happy again,  
He carries his heart in his boots.  
For either the rain is destroying his grain  
Or the drought is destroying his roots.  
He will tell you the spring was a second-hand thing  
For the frost and the cold were that bad.  
While what with the heat and the  
The summer was nearly as bad.  
The autumn of course is a permanent sorrow  
As for the winter, I don't know a printer  
Would print his opinion of that.  
In fact when you meet this unfortunate man,  
The conclusion is only too plain.  
That Nature is just an elaborate plan  
To annoy again and again.  
Happy new year.



Robert Jacques

THERE is something inescapably daft about rare birds. The names are enough: ancient murrelet, lesser-spotted this, greater-crested that, Audubon's the other. Then there are those whose purpose in life is to pursue such birds: "twitchers".

Twitchers have become a ludicrous part of British life. Everybody loves to chortle at twitchers, even the twitchers themselves.

The trouble is that people think twitching and birding are synonymous. I have heard tales of grannies with hired binoculars sprinting around bird reserves at breakneck speed in pursuit of a rare bird they have been told about. They have somehow got the idea that this is what you are supposed to do when you go birdwatching.

Twitchers enjoy their birds in the way that people who visit all 91 Football League grounds enjoy their footy. Their way is not everyone's way; but twitching is, in all its lunacy, rather admirable. If you compare birders with churchgoers, twitchers are religious fanatics.

If you want to succeed as a serious twitcher, you have to see an awful lot of birds. There is an organisation called the UK400 Club. Twenty years ago, a list of 300 species spotted was remark-

# To tick or not to tick; the twitcher's dilemma

Feather report

A few years ago, the first twitcher passed the 400 mark, and it was considered a thing of wonder. Now there are nearly 200 twitchers with 400-strong life lists, and Ron Johns, the first to pass 400, is still leading with 485. There are 574 birds on the British list, including 15 that have not been seen here for 50 years or more, and 15 oddballs you are not supposed to tick. There are 19 more under consideration for the list. From these figures alone, it is clear that all club members have performed wonders.

Twitching is not a straightforward business. It is packed with dilemmas. The essential moral dichotomy of twitching is this: what can I tick, and what not?

You cannot tick dead birds. Since many of these extreme rarities are sad, wind-blown strays at their last gasp, this is not as silly a restriction as it sounds. You cannot tick escaped cage birds... but you can tick the ring-necked parakeet. Escaped parakeets have become viable breeding birds and

have been admitted to the British list. I have even seen one near Staines, of all places, and another down my road. The thing to do is to write down any escaped birds you see and hope that one day they will be promoted to the official list - this is called an "armchair tick". You may find all this ludicrous, but I haven't started yet.

Lee Evans, very much the twitcher's twitcher with a life list of 471, is the moving spirit of the UK400 Club. He cites a number of contentious birds that turn up on the life lists of most twitchers. These are 29 disputed birds of fabulous rarity. The rarer the bird, it seems, the more ludicrous the name.

Some birds, he thinks, have too great an escape likelihood. Therefore you cannot count Dalmatian peafowl, white peafowl, marbled duck, demoiselle crane (perish the thought), palm dove, eagle owl, rufous-sided towhee or red-

headed bunting. Mr Evans is a strict sort of chap.

But this all gets worse. The following birds cannot be counted because their identity is uncertain: white-faced petrel, dark-rumped petrel, soft-plumaged petrel, western sandpiper and Blyth's pipit. Some of these references, by the way, are to specific sightings, or alleged sightings, of the bird concerned. Twitching is not supposed to be a simple business.

Never mind: here is a group that Mr Evans says you can tick. They are all possible escapes, but Mr Evans, in mellow mood for once, says: "Until it can be proven beyond doubt that they are escapes, they can be treated as genuine vagrants and thus be considered countable." These include greater flamingo, falcated duck, ruddy shelduck, Barrow's goldeneye, hooded merganser, white-headed duck, black vulture (you must be joking), saker falcon, blue rock thrush and indigo bunting.

Mr Evans's last group com-

prises birds that crossed the oceans by boat. But hurrah! You can still tick them: northern flicker, northern mockingbird and lark sparrow. But you cannot count the snowy shearwater. This bird came to England on one of the boats concerned in the Falklands affair. It was a real wild bird, but it was fed by our boys on its way over, and that is enough to disqualify it.

The documents from the UK400 Club have a Swiffling ring, and twitchers sound too Chubbudubdubbian to be true. However, let me finish with a quotation from Sir Peter Scott, one I have cited before, one which will serve as Feather Report's seasonal address to the nation, and one which concerns the most rabid twitcher and the person with the most casual interest in birds: "First go out and enjoy wildlife. Then forget the idea that you can't do anything to help save it."

SIMON BARNES

What's about: Short-toed treecreeper at Dungeness; female two-banded crossbill at Lynford Arboretum in Norfolk; American ring-necked ducks at Romsey, Hants and other areas. For more details call Budline: 0898 701222.

● The UK400 Club, 8 Sandycroft Road, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks HP8 4JH.

Breeding

# Flocks to watch

BEATRIX Potter's tales by no means tell the whole story of her view of the animal world. In fact, the special admiration of the children's writer was reserved for England's hardiest sheep, the Herdwick.

Since the animals graze on rocky outcrops high among Lakeland's fells, it can be said that Herdwicks reach those parts other sheep cannot reach. Potter learnt to love Herdwicks when she moved to the Lake District to write and farm. She kept Herdwicks herself, and the National Trust perpetuates the breed today, requiring some tenant farmers in the Lakes to include them among their stock - today there are an estimated 75,000 breeding Herdwicks in the Lakes.

"The breed is kept under more arduous conditions than black-faced sheep in Scotland," says Geoff Brown, the secretary of the breed society. "They rarely receive any supplementary feeding in winter, and perform well."

Herdwick meat is extremely good quality, close-grained, almost "gamey" in taste and is often used for royal and state

banquets. The wool is not prized. It is not soft and takes dye poorly, although it makes good tweed.

Mr Brown receives enquiries from farmers in Scotland, North Yorkshire and, surprisingly, even the lush pastures of the home counties. But it is only in the Lakes that Herdwicks are found in substantial numbers, claiming the highest fells around Buttermere and Langdale for their own.

However, even here, proposed government restructuring of subsidies could wipe them out. In August farmers gathered at Ambleside to consider the implications of new proposals.

"The economics of the average Herdwick farm mean probably 50 per cent of income comes from subsidy payments," Mr Brown says. "There should be a restructuring to compensate farmers for the landscape, in addition to payments for sheep."

SANDY BISP

● Further information from Geoff Brown at Alma House, Helton, Penrith GA10 2QA.



Endangered: the hardy Herdwick

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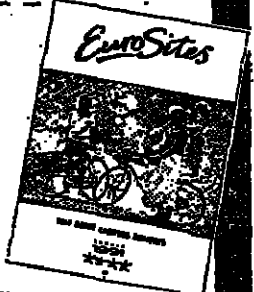
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# Putting nature on the right line

**Alastair Guild meets  
Paul Knipe, British  
Rail's first guardian  
of trackside plants  
and wildlife**

Britain has a new and rightly recognised national asset, according to Paul Knipe — its railway trackside. "It is a dynamic monument to Victorian and Edwardian engineering, with its bold, practical architecture, avenues of trees, herb-rich banks and wooded slopes," he says.

British Rail's appointment of Mr Knipe, a biologist, aged 34, as its first vegetation management consultant is a recognition of the railways' contribution to Britain's landscape, and to train passengers' enjoyment of their journey.

Mr Knipe's country is all Southern Region's track, from Kent to Dorset. "The first priority must be to reduce the risk of derailment by falling trees or slippage on leaf-covered tracks," he says.

For the past three years, he has been project officer for trackside vegetation along Hampshire's 220 miles of track, an estate of some 1,500 acres. He has supervised removal, felling, coppicing and planting. A nursery of native trees, shrubs and flowers was started two years ago at Winchester station, and 24 badger crossings were installed on the Southampton-Portsmouth line, with fencing designed to funnel the animals through.

The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology carried out a national survey of Britain's 75,000 acres of railway trackside in 1984, and recorded more than 2,000 species of plants and 181 sites of biological interest.

"In the summer, railway banks are ablaze with the colour of meadow flowers, in the autumn they are covered with the purple haze of heather, while in the spring flashes of yellow advertise primroses growing under hazel catkins," Mr Knipe says. "Sections of track are lined with avenues of trees and many branch lines take on the appearance of a sheltered woodland ride."

"This network acts as a refuge

and a corridor for the movement of wildlife." The secluded banks are easy digging for foxes, rabbits and badgers, while in summer, lizards and grass snakes bask on the rocky ballast. Fallow and roe deer are also to be seen.

Embankment scrub provides a ideal nesting cover for warblers, particularly the willow warbler, the blackcap and the chiffchaff, while in trees near Shawford, in Hampshire, nightingales have set up home. Butterflies abound on the Botley line, with hairstreak, elephant hawkmoth and chalkhill blues.

"Railway construction involved the movement of phenomenal amounts of rock and soil," Mr Knipe says. Rock dug out during tunnelling and the digging of

cuttings was used to build up embankments further along the line. In Hampshire, the bulk of this was chalk bedrock, creating a linear calcareous strip through the heart of the country.

The high chalk content and the amount of exposed chalk put a break on colonisation by plants, allowing fine grasses and chalk herbaceous species to dominate. Colonists were also slow to take root on river sands and gravels, and the sands of the New Forest and the Surrey heaths. There, acid grassland and associated herbs developed. Fine grasses and herbs initially dominated the railway banks, built up from free-draining soils low in nutrients. Plants are still found which can adapt to prolonged periods of drought.

In the age of steam, fires from red-hot clinkers helped keep the grass low and prevent trees from seeding. Some species thrived on this type of regimen, including the rose-hay willowherb, the fireman's lupin and the adder's tongue fern.

For a long time, planned management was by "length gangs", teams of men looking after four miles of track and bank. "These were very much countrymen, practising traditional methods of management." They were phased out in the Sixties with the rising cost of labour, and the process of natural succession has gone unchecked as a result. Grassland was slowly invaded by scrub, which, in turn, gave way to hardy species such as hawthorn, sycamore and the alien Japanese

knutweed. Large trees and pollards have become top-heavy and unstable.

Plant life on the track ballast is sprayed once every summer with persistent herbicide but some annuals, such as the whitlow grass and American willowherb, remain resistant. The chemicals now used are showing up in drinking water aquifers in amounts harmful to health. Mr Knipe has recommended that BR use more environmentally acceptable herbicides.

More badger crossings will be provided on new electrification schemes, such as the Tonbridge to Redhill line. "Deer and foxes step over the track quite happily, but badgers, because they are so low slung, tend to get caught," Mr

Knipe says. He is also looking at bat grilles for tunnel faces.

A planned programme of trackside management will leave behind vegetation which, with regular annual felling both sides of the track, will not require further maintenance for 15 years.

Mr Knipe is working with BR's ancillary gangs to improve their awareness and understanding of nature. He also wants to liaise more closely with wildlife and conservation groups with reserves backing on to the track.

BR could soon extend trackside management to other parts of the network — Western Region and the Midlands could be next. A further nursery has already been established at Gipsy Hill, in south London.

Return ticket: Paul Knipe plans to plant and conserve to screen ugly industrial development and to open up new vistas for the pleasure of passengers



## Country events

### THIS WEEKEND

● **Pewsey Antiques Fair:** Forty exhibitors selling pre-1930 collectables. Seaford College, West Sussex. Today, Monday 11am-5pm; tomorrow, Tuesday 11am-5pm. Admission £2.50. Details: 0277 362062.

● **Golf at Killow:** Work off the extra pounds on the nine-hole course — all weather, floodlit after dark. Killow Country Park, near Trow, Cornwall. Today, tomorrow 9.30am-5.30pm; weekdays 9.30am-9.30pm. £1.20 for 50 balls.

● **Alton Towers Christmas festival:** Short Dickensian show and three ice shows daily. Alton Towers, Staffordshire. Today, tomorrow, Jan 1, 11am-7pm. Park free. Ice shows: adult £5.95, child £4.95 (booking 0538 702200).

● **National Shire Horse Centre:** Visitors can see all the horses in their stables, follow a walk trail, visit pet corner. Saddlery, pottery, museum, adventure playground. National Shire Horse Centre, Yealmpton, near Plymouth, Devon (0752 880268). Daily 10am-dusk. Adult £1, child 75p.

● **Pewsey Vale Christmas cruises:** Board a 65ft narrowboat for a cruise on the Kennet and Avon canal. Bar and mince pies. The Lock, Wootton Rivers, Marlborough, Wiltshire. Tomorrow and Jan 1, from 2pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.50. Booking: 0703 260200.

● **New Year steamings:** Last of the mince pie specials at the Midland Railway Centre, Butterley station, Ripley, Derbyshire, tomorrow to Tuesday, 11.30am-4.15pm. Details: 0773 747674. New Year rides at railway centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire, tomorrow until Tuesday. Booking 0235 617200.

● **Christmas walks:** There are dozens this weekend and until New Year's day. For information about one near you, telephone the National Trust (071-222 8251) or the Ramblers Association (071-582 8878).

### NEXT WEEK

● **Allendale fire festival:** Ancient custom upheld by the men of Allendale who, in disguise, carry sawn-off wooden barrels filled with inflammable material to walk the village boundaries before assembling in the market square to make a bonfire with the barrels, and "burn the old year out". Spectators welcome. Allendale, Northumberland. Monday, from 11pm.

● **Bath race:** Fun charity event now in its eighteenth year in aid of the Jubilee Sailing Trust. About 30 boats, either paddled or under sail, race in the harbour. Poole Quay, Poole, Dorset. Tuesday from 10.30am. Details: 0202 673774.

JUDY FROSHAUG

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30 Bobby Jones Gospel. The best of American gospel music from Nashville, Tennessee (r)

- 00 Part World. Dublin vet John Wilson with advice on keeping koala bears and sheep
- 30 Christopher's Christmas Mission. Animated story about young Christopher Johnson who, on Christmas Eve, decides to fulfil his fantasy by taking from the rich and giving to the poor
- 00 The Bluffers 8.30 Bobobots 9.00 Early Bird. Magazine programme made by children for children
- 25 Lata In Her Own Voice. A six-part tribute celebrating the eternal voice of Lata Mangeshkar, India's leading female playback singer (r)
- 00 How The Kwei Lost its Wings. Kathleen Houston's animated version of a popular Maori folk legend

15 **Batman and Robin (b/w)**, Episode six



Environment-friendly: Jeremy Coaster, Glenda Jackson (10.35am)

35 Film: Doomsbeach (1989). Environmental thriller made by the Children's Film Unit and starring Glenda Jackson, Jeremy Coster, Emma Freud and Peter Marshall. Gavin and his friends feel that adults have little regard or respect for the world in which children are growing up, so they embark on a crusade against a suspected pollution from a nearby power station. Directed by Colin Finbow.

00 The Waltons. Another slice of life with the close-knit Appalachian clan

00 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea (b/w). The "Seaview" confronts a sea-monster, the creation of a mad scientist, that has a whole village frozen into silence (r)

00 Der Ring des Nibelungen: Die Walküre. Wagner's operatic

documentary combines with the seductive plot of the Ring Cycle  
 30 *The Cosby Show*. Family fun in the popular American sitcom  
 00 *Brooklyn South* (CBS, New York, New York, 11) features two of  
 the four-part Australian drama serial set amid the turn-of-the-  
 century overboard trades. (Teletext)

DO *The Making of Orchestral A* documentary about the making of  
 the Orchestral series which began last Sunday. It features an  
 interview with the Duke of York and Sir George Solti about why they  
 decided to work together, their hopes for the programmes and  
 their experiences while filming. The film also observes Moore, Solti  
 and the 120 young musicians of the Schleswig-Holstein Festival  
 Orchestra and all other cast members.

30 *America's Football* highlights the Packers and Gary Little with  
 the news and events from the NFL.

00 **Film:** *And Now for Something Completely Different* (1971) starring *Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin.* An anthology of *Monty Python* sketches that together with the *Monty Python* market, includes *Say No More, Nudge Nudge, Inimicality Hungarian Phrasebook, Hell's Grannies, I Am Deafness against Soft Fruit* and *The Dead Parrot*. Directed by *San Maughan.* (Teletext)

40 **Best of Dazzling image.** Another chance to see three short films shown last July. The first, *Ballet of Reading God* by *Richard Kwehnowski*, is an interpretation of *Charles Williams's* speech which he made from the *Old Bailey* in 1942 before being sentenced to two years hard labour for gross indecency. The second, *The Long Way Round*, is a tongue-in-cheek study of a building populated by three security guards, two business people, a maintenance man and a dog, where a closed circuit television is put to novel use. The beautifully shot final film, *The Old Man and the Sea*, by *Christopher Nonhe*, compares a landscape of a seaside town, a closed class and a man with a bedridden old man. *Sinister* hints emerge from the sadistic games which he plays on his own

40 **40am Chinese Ghost Stories.** Jonathan Ross introduces *Film: Expiring D'Amour* (1983) starring *Alan Tang* and *Celia Chan.* A charming romantic fantasy set in Hong Kong. A man falls in love with the wife of a friend, but she is married to a man who has had almost run her over. In Cantonese with English subtitles. Directed by *Ringo Lam.* *Tam.* Ends at 2.20

### Open Pro Figure Skating Championships

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8.00pm The Marco Polo satellite.  
8.24pm The Broken Badge: Two police officers investigate the death of a witness.  
9.30 Side by Side: Starring comedians Alan Berle, Sid Caesar and Danny Thomas.  
10.15 The Brady Bunch: Bobby Brady tries to win the Nashville 500 car race.

**TAKE 20**

## 10

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● SPORT 23-30  
● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 31-33  
● WEEKEND MONEY 36-40

## SPORT

## Forward thinking



GRAHAM Taylor would probably pick Dean Saunders (above), of Derby County, for England if he could. But Saunders, like Ian Rush and Mark Hughes, is Welsh, giving Wales the choice of three of the best forwards in Europe. Saunders's success at Derby recently prompted his manager, Arthur Cox, to value him at £5 million, and if that seems excessive, there is little doubt that Saunders is the hottest property in football. Clive White reports. Page 25

## CALENDAR

## A look ahead

THE sport-by-sport guide to the great events in the year of rugby union's second World Cup, the Ryder Cup golf match between the United States and Europe, and the world athletics championships. Page 28

## COMMENT

## Winter work

THE "rebel" cricketers who followed Mike Gatting to South Africa a year ago should have spent this winter there, too, but the second leg of the tour was cancelled. Richard Streeton found out how the so-called rebels intend to spend their time. Page 24

## COLUMN

## A new wave



AT THE beginning of this year, the name of Tracy Edwards (above) was known only to followers of yachting. But her achievements with Maiden earned her wide recognition and, incidentally, an honourable mention in Laura Thompson's review of the year. Page 26

## YACHTING

## Wind breaker

LIGHT winds along the Tasmanian coast yesterday robbed Rothmans, skippered by Laurie Smith, of the chance to break the 15-year-old record for the Sydney to Hobart race. Page 24

## RUGBY UNION

## Back again



FRENCH rugby endured a difficult 1990, but the new year could see the return of an old and disciplined figure around which to build a new international team. Pierre Berbizier (above), the veteran Agen scrum half, is back in the national squad. Page 26

## RACING

## Dawn journey

FRAGRANT Dawn, who landed a substantial gamble in Newbury's L'Oreal Hurdle 12 months ago, heads south in search of a repeat success at the Berkshire course today. Trained at Malton, Yorkshire, by Jimmy Fitzgerald, Fragrant Dawn will again be partnered by the in-form Mark Dwyer, who rode three winners at Carlisle yesterday. Page 27

## Brave Fraser nags Australia's batsmen to fatal distraction

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN MELBOURNE

ANGUS Fraser sometimes seems to wear the cares of the world on his sloping shoulders as he puffs and plods his way through over after over. But the trust England have heaped on this endearing young man was handsomely repaid in a monumental spell of bowling here yesterday.

Fraser took six Australian wickets at a cost of only 23 runs, completing the best analysis of his young but already mature England career and gaining for his side an unexpected and precious first-innings lead of 46 in the second Test.

Only 197 runs were scored on a day when batting became steadily more complicated. But the pitch's sluggish pace and its erratic bounce do not entirely account for some shocking lapses by the Australian batsmen. Most of the credit for these must lie with the most purposeful, disciplined bowling performance by an England side since the Trinidad Test in March.

Fraser was at the sharp end of the operation, as, these days, he always will be. The burden on him is heavy for one playing only his tenth Test, and there have recently been times when it has told on him. But yesterday he was magnificent, taking six consecutive wickets as Australia declined from 224 for three, in mid-afternoon, to 306 all out just before the scheduled close.

In the day, Fraser bowled 26 overs for figures of six for 34, but if the word inexhaustible springs readily to mind, forget it. With the job done, Fraser was just about able to lead the team off the MCG before collapsing onto his dressing-room bench, dehydrated and weary beyond words.

This was his finest day as an England player but it had not begun promisingly. On Thursday evening, Fraser had looked disoriented in the heat, dust and wind served up by Melbourne's fickle weather. They presented, he felt, the worst conditions he had ever bowled in, and when he turned his right ankle in the delivery stride while bowling his second ball yesterday morning, he must have suspected this was not to be his game.

To lose Fraser at that point would have been a blow to an attack which has nothing in reserve. But after a few anxious moments he resumed a spell of nine overs for five runs, setting the tone of a day which England approached with a precise plan and stuck to it rigidly.

The strategy, simple in conception though often elusive in reality, involved frustrating the Australians by containment. Bowl straight on this turgid pitch and runs would always be restricted. Additionally, all three seam bowlers operated round the wicket



A job well done: Fraser and Russell, with six victims apiece, had plenty to smile about after Australia's dismissal for 306 in Melbourne

to the left-handers, cramping them for width and making them play at more balls than they would like.

It made for attritional cricket, engrossing to the purists in a crowd of 25,000 but bewildering to those conditioned to the one-day game. For England, however, it was a triumph, the threat of a sizeable deficit and a stressful battle to save the game now replaced by a position in which victory was a possibility.

David Boon played the first poor stroke of the day, cutting at a short, wide ball from Malcolm to give Jack Russell his second of six catches in the innings, a new England record against Australia. The sight England craved, however, was the retreating figure of Mark Taylor and after spending more than four hours over 61, he obliged them when something far more formidable was in prospect.

It was Phillip DeFreitas who removed him, with a ball angled in from round the wicket, an appropriate success on the day when the team management confirmed he will be staying on until the end of the tour.

Border and Jones came together shortly before lunch and this

always seemed likely to be the crucial partnership. England sensed it and imaginative, challenging fields were set. Jones, nervy while still on nought, was fortunate to survive a desperate slog against Tufnell, but for a time after lunch he batted at a tempo no one else approached.

Tufnell bowled far from badly, but both Jones and Border employed twinking footwork against him, driving vigorously and running hectically between the wickets. They put on 75 in 88 minutes before Jones was out to the first ball following the afternoon drinks break. Like Boon and Taylor before him, and Healy afterwards, he perished chasing a ball he might better have left alone.

From then on, this was Fraser's day. Steve Waugh played inside the line and was bowled off stump. Border's four-hour vigil ended in a legside catch to Russell and Matthews, another inhibited by the tactic of bowling round the wicket, was leg-before. The rest did not delay England long, not even Merv Hughes, summoned from his sick bed, to which he had been confined by influenza, to meet an unforeseen emergency.

## THIRD-DAY SCOREBOARD

England won toss  
ENGLAND: First Innings 352 (D I Gower 100, A J Stewart 79, W Larkins 64, B A Reid 6 for 97)

## AUSTRALIA: First Innings

	Bats	Runs	Wickets	Min	Balls
G R Marsh c Russell b DeFreitas	36	—	4	256	177
M A Taylor c Russell b DeFreitas	61	—	1	119	82
D C Boon c Russell b Malcolm	28	—	1	119	82
A R Border c Russell b Fraser	62	—	5	236	164
D I Gower c Russell b Fraser	44	—	6	88	57
S R Waugh c Fraser	19	—	2	61	47
B A Reid c Russell b Fraser	12	—	—	79	64
M G Hughes b Fraser	5	—	—	21	10
T M Alderman c Russell b Fraser	4	—	—	48	16
P J McCullough c Russell b Fraser	0	—	—	9	10
S A Field not out	3	—	—	18	16
Extras (b 4, lb 12, w 16)		32			
Total (112.5 overs, 541 balls)		308			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83 (Taylor 19), 2-133 (Taylor 52), 3-149 (Border 4), 4-224 (Border 31), 5-264 (Border 50), 6-281 (Matthews 3), 7-289 (Matthews 6), 8-298 (Hughes 0), 9-302 (Hughes 5), 10-306 (Reid 5).

SCORING: Malcolm 25-54-74-2 (7th) (3-1-7-0), (5-1-18-0), (7-1-24-1), (4-0-7-0), (5-1-17-0), (0-5-1-1), Fraser 29-10-22-6 (9th) (7-1-24-0), (5-0-24-0), (5-0-5-0), (5-0-9-1), (12-0-20-0), Tufnell 21-5-22-0 (11th) (2-0-3-0), (4-2-3-0), (5-0-18-0), (10-3-33-0), DeFreitas 25-5-60-2 (5-0-2-1), (1-0-1-0), (0-2-0-0), (5-2-8-0), Atherton 2-1-3-0 (one spell).

Umpires: A R Crafter and P J McConnell.  
FIRST TEST: Australia won by ten wickets.  
TESTS TO COME: Third Test: Sydney, January 4-8. Fourth Test: Adelaide, January 24-28. Fifth Test: Perth, February 1-5.

## Stand-outs of an outstanding year

## Athens

THIS column never takes sport with anything less than the full portentous seriousness it deserves. Here, then, are this year's awards for the great men and women who have made the year what it was.

The Sunil Gavaskar award for doorman of the year goes to the man at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the MCG. He refused admittance to Andrew Peacock, then prime minister-elect, knowing full well who he was.

The award for quixotry goes to Nathan Strange, Britain's first sumo wrestler, who fought as Hidenouki before returning, fed up with life under the sport's feudal system.

Commonwealth Games heroines: Pauline Adams, a bowls player of Western Samoa, in trouble for shouting things like "Hit it, hit it, good girl!" to her woods; and to Soma Duta, a rifle shooter from India and a double medal winner.

Team award: Liechtenstein table tennis team, with a special mention for the player who has a wooden leg.

Cricket headline of the year: "Black Baby for Gooch". Marilyn Williams told the *Bliss* of Trinidad that she wanted Gooch to adopt her child so that it would have "a better life under the Queen".

Sporting poet of the year: W. S. Cameron of Guyana, for the lines like "And Wight Cup cricket more popular and clamorous for alive/ Than Test cricket for alas is Guyana... / a peec ting ting peec ting".

Cockup of the year: the Lord's stands.

Race relations award: Brian Close, for telling the world on television: "There's a hundred years of bloody tradition on Yorkshire lads... by the time he's toddling he's got a bat in his

## SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

hand. Bloody Pakistanis didn't know the damn thing."

American football match of the year: Oxford University beat Cambridge University 60-19. The universities also have such college teams as Sidney Opera House and Jesus Saves.

Disciplinary fine of the year: Bryan Hyslop, of the Great Britain amateur rugby league side, was sent off in a match against Apia in Western Samoa. He was fined one pig.

World Cup coaching award: to Valery Nepomniachy, the Siberian coach of Cameroon: "Today is the day for meeting the wives. Footballers are also people and if a man is in discomfort for a long time it can affect his work."

Golf of the year: Mikael Krantz, of Sweden. Playing the Irish Open in Dublin, he started at the first tee by hitting the ball and then falling over. He was recovering from a hangover at the time. "I was very silly," he said. "I was invited to an Irish party and it went on from there." He shot an 11-over-par 83, an excellent score in the circumstances.

Most spectacular performance in a sporting arena: the couple from the Toronto Skydome. While watching the baseball game from the Skydome's integral hotel, they turned their attentions to each other in the mistaken impression that the glass was one-way. Did the roof move for you, honey?

Best moment of the World Cup: Maradona's penalty miss against Yugoslavia.

Sell-out of the year: the Cornhill logo on the grass at the Oval. I mean, of course, the Foster's Oval, don't I? During the

Oval Test, it was announced that the left bosoms of all England shirts were on sale to the highest bidder.

Batsmen of the year: shared by Devon Malcolm and Narendra Hirwani, in honour of the Campaign for Real Number Elevens.

Sportsman of the year: Art Peace, aged 23 and mentally handicapped. He decided to take part in a five-mile fun run, discovered that he had accidentally lined up in the Portland Marathon, shrugged his shoulders and ran every step of the course in 4hr 18min 23sec.

Colemanballs of the year: Mike Gatting: "I hurt my thumb and then obviously the mother-in-law died." Runner-up: an NBC commentator: "The Dutch boxer Ruur can speak four languages, which is amazing for someone so short."

Sponsor of the year: Jergens skin cream broke new ground by affixing their logo to uniforms of

the Memphis State University cheerleaders.

Sponsored competition of the year: TSW Printers (Scunthorpe) Lincolnshire Football League. Their league cup is The Fire Surround and Kitchen Centre Supplementary Cup.

Baseball personality of the year: Schottzie, the St Bernard owned by Marge Schott, owner of the World Series winners, Cincinnati Reds.

Boxing story of the year: Bobby Beck split with his trainer. Beck is 12. He was trained by his father. "We just couldn't get on," the trainer said.

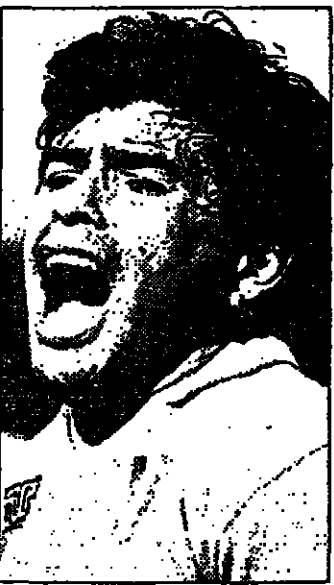
British sportsman of the year: James Lambert. He won a ski jumping event — in fact, a Nordic combined, which involves jumping and Nordic skiing.

Horseman of the year: the dashing rider who came third in the cross country at Potton this spring, and won £5 for doing so. This column salutes Simon Barnes.

Scorecard line of the year: Chamundeswararajah c Balasubramaniam b Anantapadmanabhan 2.

This brings me effortlessly to my final award for Team Night-mare. It goes to Dr Feix Senanayake, who receives a bottle of Calém Colheitas 1957, an ambrosial tawny port. He offers two teams of genuine cricketers to contest a Test match: England: John D. Smith, Albert D. Smith, John F. Smith, John R. Smith, David R. Smith, John H. Smith, Charles R. Smith, John H. Smith, David F. Smith, John A. Smith, John B. Smith. 12th man: David C. Smith. India: R. Patel, A. Patel, C. Patel, D. Patel, B. Patel, S. Patel, N. Patel, M. Patel, O. Patel, X. Patel, Y. Patel. 12th man: N. Patel.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a splendid competition. I wish everyone joys of the new sporting year.



Maradona: spot on in Italy

## England's success may prove expensive

FROM ALAN LEE

ENGLAND'S finest day of the tour did not pass unblemished. They face the prospect of a heavy fine for falling well below the prescribed over-rate.

In eight minutes short of a full six-hour day, England bowled only 77.5 overs. If they do not improve in the second innings, they could be fined Aus\$6,000, precisely the amount they would collect if they won the game.

Australian cricket pays lip-service to a 90-overs per day minimum, as the regulation has a clause permitting the batting side to come off at the scheduled time of close, no matter how many overs have been bowled.

This abuses the prime intention of any over-rate minimum, which must be to guarantee the paying spectator the amount of entertainment to which he is entitled. So far in this match, the batting team has declined to proceed beyond 6pm on all three days, which has cost a total of 21 overs.

England's tactics yesterday were designed exclusively to frustrate the Australian batsmen, and they worked, but this does not excuse a rate of little more than 13 overs per hour.

The touring team was also party to a mysterious incident concerning marks on the match ball, a sensitive issue since the recent allegations that Pakistan bowlers have been doctoring the ball.

It was shortly before lunch yesterday when the umpires, Tony Crafter and Peter McConnell, converged for a lengthy examination of the ball and then called across the England captain, Graham Gooch.

When given the opportunity to clarify the incident at close of play, England's tour manager, Peter Lush, only added to the suspicion by confirming with Gooch before replying: "He doesn't want to say anything about this. We have no comment."

It transpires that the umpires were reassured that the marks emanated from the wearing surface of the pitch, which the groundsman admits is now more like a fifth-day pitch than one only three days old.

Hugh Morris is to leave Australia next Wednesday and will be home in time to set out with the rest of the players he will be leading in Pakistan on the A team tour which begins on January 7.

Phillip DeFreitas, who was to have been a member of that party, is now to stay on in Australia and will be replaced by the Glamorgan bowler Steve Watkins, aged 26, who played in every championship match last season, in which he took 69 wickets at 39.30 apiece.

Yesterday's rebels, page 24

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# Gatting's rebels still convinced they were right

By RICHARD STREETON

A YEAR ago 16 English cricketers, led by Mike Gatting, were preparing to leave for a "rebel" tour of South Africa. Their visit aroused enormous controversy in Britain and caused civil unrest in South Africa. It was eventually brought to a premature end by the South Africans, with the second tour planned for this winter cancelled.

The players emerged between £80,000 and £120,000 richer and with a five-year ban from the international game. Officially, they remain under contract until March 31, 1991 and they still cannot comment, although privately they admit to no regrets.

"We made a perfectly legal choice to go," one said this week. "You could say, though, that we



## COMMENT

RICHARD STREETON

were surprised and disappointed by the uproar that followed."

The two oldest members of the party, David Graveney, the player-manager, who is 37, and John Emburey, the vice-captain, who is a year older, were more interested in the present merger between the two South African boards than looking backwards. "It will be great for their young players, especially the blacks and coloureds, and is another step towards South Africa coming back into the fold," Graveney said.

Graveney, an accountant, works during the winter for his brother's firm in Bristol. He remains treasurer of the Cricketers' Association and, having left Gloucestershire, is keeping fit for his new career with Somerset next summer. Emburey hopes for another four or five years in the first-class game but confessed that he "rather had his tongue in his cheek" when he said in South Africa that he hoped to regain his England place at 42 when his ban is completed.

Since the season ended, Emburey has been engaged in charity work for leukaemia research and boys' clubs, playing for the Lord's Taverners in Hong Kong and joining Ian Botham's recent walk. His own affairs have recently been less rewarding. The Australian recession has made a hole in the £107,000 his 1986 benefit brought him and other capital that he invested there, and he is seeking sponsorship to help with a scheme he has for coaching in inner cities.

Like all the other players, Emburey wondered if they would be barred last summer. "Apart from Gatting and myself in the Middlesex side, there was also Des Haynes, who had slowed down the over-rate so badly against England in the Caribbean last winter. In fact, we met no hostility during the

season and as far as I know neither did anybody else who went to South Africa."

Gatting, of course, in Brisbane recently, had a harsh reminder that it is not acceptable to many people even to practise with England while banned. Gatting is in Australia working for the media. He is known to be hoping that the International Cricket Council might shorten the five-year ban if South Africa return to the Test scene, but this would almost certainly be unacceptable to several countries.

The only one of the party actively engaged in cricket abroad this winter is Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan batsman, who is coaching and playing in New Zealand. Neil Foster, the Essex fast bowler, has settled down well in a new role as a sports master at a Colchester

school. He is spending the Christmas holidays recovering from a further operation on his troublesome knee.

The similarly afflicted Graham Dilley, the Worcestershire fast bowler, has deliberately been resting from regular bowling but has been working on the club's commercial side and hopes to become increasingly involved with youth coaching. Richard Ellison, the Kent all-rounder, is already in this area, working for Bromley council, coaching ten and 11-year-olds at schools.

Bruce French, the Nottinghamshire wicketkeeper, is planning his benefit next summer. Bill Athey, the Gloucestershire batsman, is coming to the end of his benefit year and has planned some cricket during private visits to Australia and Hong Kong in the new year. Tim

Robinson, the Nottinghamshire captain, is doing promotional work for the county, as is Greg Thomas, the Northamptonshire fast bowler.

Robinson's team-mate, Chris Broad, has several interests, among them furniture importing and a fish farm. Paul Jarvis, the Yorkshire fast bowler, is unemployed. Apart from his well-publicised clashes with the club committee, he has emerged as the leading scorer in a Sunday football team that the Yorkshire cricketers use to help them keep fit.

Kim Barnett, the Derbyshire captain, and Chris Cowdrey, of Kent, are others keeping fit but with no regular job. Alan Wells, the Sussex batsman, works with the family packaging firm in Brighton.

## YACHTING

# Rothmans' record hopes flounder in the light winds

From BOB ROSS IN HOBART

LIGHT winds along the Tasmanian coast last night slowed progress in the Sydney to Hobart race and robbed the British maxi entrant, Rothmans, of her chance of beating the 15-year-old race record. At 10pm local time, Rothmans was 97.6 miles from the finish, off Schouten Island, in a dying breeze.

Rothmans, an 80-footer, skippered by Lawrie Smith and designed by Rob Humphreys for the most recent Whitbread round the world race, had also lost more than half of her lead as the fleet closed.

She was 11.6 miles ahead of the 11-year-old German Frers-

designed maxi, Ragamuffin, owned and skippered by Syd Fischer, of Sydney, compared with 30 miles at one stage. Third, another 7.9 miles behind Ragamuffin, was the eight-year-old Ron Holland-designed maxi, Condor, owned by Tony Paola, of Sydney.

Yesterday afternoon, the yachts were running under spinnakers in less than 12 knots of breeze. Although a westerly of 20 to 25 knots was forecast, the wind in Hobart last night was less than five knots and a northwester of 5 to 12 knots was forecast today.

Rothmans also dropped from second to tenth on

corrected time. The corrected time leader was still the Sydney Farr one-tonner, Sagacious (Gary Appleby). In second place was the much-modified one-tonner, Anduril (David Kennedy), designed by Ed Dubois, of England.

The Davidson 36, Fujitsu Dealers (John Eyles), moved into third place as the smaller yachts made the most of conditions, while the Davidson one-tonner, Beyond Thunderdome, under charter to a British syndicate headed by Mark Beeson, slipped back one place to fourth.

The Tasmanian 47-footer, Mirabooka (John Bennett), was leading class II International Measurement System while Fujitsu Dealers was leading IMS class III.

The light winds are not the only disappointment to greet Rothmans in Tasmania. The anti-smoking lobby is planning demonstrations against the yacht.

Dr Gerry Bates, a Green independent, has a member's bill before the Tasmanian parliament to ban all tobacco advertising at sporting venues and has strong local support.

Although a speedboat carrying a "Quit for Life" banner tailed Rothmans out of Sydney Heads at the race start, there was no other demonstration during her stay in Sydney. LEADING POSITIONS (at 22.00 yesterday, with miles to finish): Rothmans (1), Sagacious (2), Anduril (3), Beyond Thunderdome (4), Mirabooka (5), Beyond Thunderdome (6), Sagacious (7), Anduril (8), Beyond Thunderdome (9), Mirabooka (10), Beyond Thunderdome (11), Sagacious (12), Anduril (13), Beyond Thunderdome (14), Mirabooka (15), Beyond Thunderdome (16), Sagacious (17), Anduril (18), Beyond Thunderdome (19), Mirabooka (20), Beyond Thunderdome (21), Sagacious (22), Anduril (23), Beyond Thunderdome (24), Mirabooka (25), Beyond Thunderdome (26), Sagacious (27), Anduril (28), Beyond Thunderdome (29), Mirabooka (30), Beyond Thunderdome (31), Sagacious (32), Anduril (33), Beyond Thunderdome (34), Mirabooka (35), Beyond Thunderdome (36), Sagacious (37), Anduril (38), Beyond Thunderdome (39), Mirabooka (40), Beyond Thunderdome (41), Sagacious (42), Anduril (43), Beyond Thunderdome (44), Mirabooka (45), Beyond Thunderdome (46), Sagacious (47), Anduril (48), Beyond Thunderdome (49), Mirabooka 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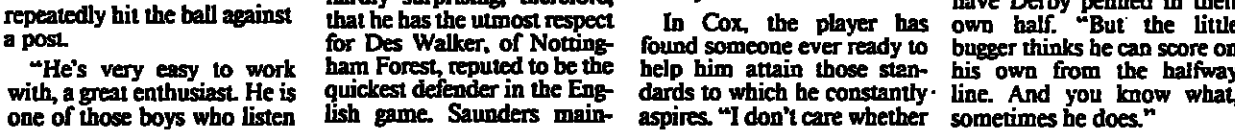
# The cross country world looks for a TV square deal

## World's choice is tale of two cities

	Depth (cm)	Conditions Piste	Runs to resort	Weather + temp (5pm) °C	Last snow fall	
ANDORRA						
Soldeu	60	80 fair	varied	good	cloud	0 27/12
Pistes in excellent condition with snow canons reinforcing the base						

That sort of figure was quoted more in order to deter bidders than to tickle their fancy, though as Saunders's fame continues to spread it is inevitable that Cox will eventually be forced to part with a player whom he said he would not swap for anyone in respect."

His father still keeps a careful eye on him, even travelling abroad to watch him play for Wales on occasion. "He still tells me if I'm doing something wrong or differently from normal, but usually I know now," he said.



## Wilkinson hoping to eat his words

**By IAN ROSS**

**WITH** half of the first division programme completed, those clubs on the periphery of the championship race will enter today's games mindful of the

After defeating Nottigham Forest at Bramall Lane last weekend, they moved to the Omniturf of Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day to collect three

consequences of defeat.

Although Leeds United, Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea, and Manchester United can continue to claim, with some justification, that they are still contesting this season's title, the fact that the Football League football's most coveted prize is awarded at the end of a marathon, not a sprint.

As a result, says Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, adopted a typically realistic stance when he declared that his team would be "in the

more points at the expense of Luton Town, and with Dean Cain's most accomplished individual players being the target with welcome regularity, the trip to Highbury is being approached with enthusiasm and a determination to win."

Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, still believes his side capable of returning to the responsibility of the Premier League, but he says that "after 18 years, but his side's run of over 100 games without a defeat in 14 games will have to

He dismissed his own club's chances of winning the first and second division titles in successive seasons, but a Leeds victory over Wimbledon at Elland Road today may lead Wilkinson to reappraise the situation.

Since losing at home to Queen's Park Rangers on October 20, Leeds have remained

unbeaten in 13 games, winning seven and drawing three of the ten League fixtures during an impressive nine weeks of consistent football.

“The Berkshire club can avoid defeat today they will succeed in bridging a 12-year gap, for Jimmy Adamson was in charge on the last occasion United went 14 games without

career.

Peter Reid, the Manchester City manager, despite successive defeats by Crystal Palace and Southampton, is not expected to make any significant changes for the game against inconsistent Nottingham Forest at the City Ground.

“Two defeats is not the end of the world, but you do not like to

With Liverpool playing at Crystal Palace in a televised game tomorrow afternoon, Arsenal will move to within one point of the defending champions if they can defeat Sheffield United at Highbury today in a game which is not quite the

After failing to win any of their opening 16 League games, which is the poorest start to a season in the club's history, United rediscovered the sort of form which won them promotion last May.

## YACHTING

**THE Telford Timman**, which begins tomorrow in the 13 lane of the indoor pool at the Madeley Sports Centre, has attracted 275 competitors, the maximum possible, with more than 100 others turned away. (Ann Sweet writes)

In triathlon terms the Triumvirate is a sprint: a 600-metre pool swim, a bike ride over 10 kilometres, and a final run over 5,000 metres. For the best competitors this will take around 50 minutes.

Matthew Belfield, the course record holder, returns after a

**DAVOS, Switzerland:** (Single) Cpt. Spasni Mucovic 6, Fairstead 2nd 2, Fairstead 3, Team Canada 5.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE (PBL):** Toronto Maple Leafs 4, St. Louis Blues 4; New Jersey Devils 4, Philadelphia Flyers 4; NY Rangers 4, New York Islanders 4; Calgary Flames 1; Philadelphia Flyers 7, Los Angeles Kings 5; Montreal Canadiens 7, Vancouver Canucks 5.

**SASKATOON, Saskatchewan:** World Junior Championships Canada 4, United States 4.

with some stiff opposition.

20 PTS	.....	\$206.547.50	SUNDERLAND MAN	.....	\$215.145
21 PTS	.....	\$209.150	SHREWSBURY MAN	.....	\$212.552
22 PTS	.....	\$209.150	EDINBURGH MAN	.....	\$212.552
22 PTS	.....	\$224.10	MIDLOTHIAN MAN	.....	\$212.552
21 PTS	.....	\$21.15	GILLINGHAM MAN	.....	\$206.516
20 1/2 PTS	.....	\$4.95			
20 PTS	.....	\$5.55	Expenses and Commission		
			8th December 1990 - 28.9%		

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...favourites to take the Leamington fathers and sons tournament after an emphatic victory over Duncan and Robert Allsop, 5-0.

**TENNIS**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Portland Trail Blazers 105, Charlotte Hornets 96, Seattle SuperSonics 125, Washington Bullets 120, Chicago Bulls 128, Golden State Warriors 113, Miami Heat 124, Denver Nuggets

Canadians 7, Vancouver Canucks 5.

Mark Cawood, last year's winner, should provide Belfield

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# THE TIMES

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By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Golf has evaded the recession. In 1991 the PGA European Tour will have a prize fund of approximately £20 million. It is an astonishing sum brought about by a number of factors none of which is more influential than the Ryder Cup, sponsored by Johnnie Walker, which is a barometer to the balance of power in world golf.

At Kiawah Island in South Carolina from September 27 to 29 Europe will attempt to regain Samuel Ryder's golden chalice, which had remained in the custody of the United States for 28 years before 1985. Then Tony Jacklin's inspired leadership, coupled with the flair of Severiano Ballesteros, Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle, carried Europe to a momentous win, since when the Americans have failed to regain the trophy.

Bernard Gallacher has succeeded Jacklin as the captain, but the nucleus of the European team will remain unchanged. Ballesteros and Faldo are likely once more to be supported by Bernhard Langer, José María Olazábal and Ian Woosnam, although Lyle must win back the place he forfeited in 1989.

Dave Stockton, the new United States captain, has stated that Europe will start favourites on a course which he has compared to Open Championship venues. It is true that the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island is adjacent to the Atlantic, although whether it will resemble a links in playing characteristics remains to be seen as it will not officially open until late spring.

Gallacher is far too astute to allow Stockton's outlook to breed complacency within his own team. He will certainly command the respect of his players in seeking to emulate Jacklin by creating a high-octane brand of team spirit.

Gallacher can count upon having the best players in the world. Faldo unquestionably proved himself in 1990 to be No. 1 and at Augusta in April he will endeavour to create another slice of history by winning the Masters for a third successive time.

Faldo's achievement in winning two Masters and two Open Championships in the last four



Leader of the pack: Faldo, feared and respected by the American challengers as the best in the world



Spanish pride, German efficiency, Welsh fervour: left to right, Ballesteros, Langer and Woosnam

years continued the trend of European players performing well in the major championships as initiated by Ballesteros (three Opens, two Masters), Langer (Masters) and Lyle (Masters and Open).

It is rare, however, for the US Open trophy to be plucked from American hands, and Faldo will be driven by this thought at Hazeltine National in Chaska, Minnesota, where 21 years ago

Jacklin won the title. Then Faldo will defend the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in July before attempting to win his first US PGA championship, which takes place three weeks after the Open at Crooked Stick, Carmel, Indiana.

Olazábal and Woosnam will each hope to win a major championship. Their appearances in Europe are likely to be fewer, which could open the

door for a new name to lead the Volvo Order of Merit.

The Desert Classic has been pencilled-in to start a nine-month programme the highlights of which are likely to be the Volvo PGA championship and the GA European Open, although the German Open has additional kudos, for it is at Huthelath, Düsseldorf, that Europe's Ryder Cup team will be finalised on August 25

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Aug 17: Spain v France v Germany v Great Britain under-23 international, Spain  
Aug 24-25: World championships, Tokyo  
Aug 24: Germany v Great Britain under-19 international, Spain  
Aug 24-25: English Areas v Soviet Republics (venues in Soviet Union to be arranged)  
Sept 6: Weltklasse grand prix, Cologne  
Sept 10: IAAF '91 grand prix, Berlin  
Sept 13: IAAF 100m Memorial grand prix, Brussels  
Sept 15: McVie's Challenge, Sheffield  
Sept 20: IAAF grand prix final, Barcelona

### BADMINTON

Feb 22-24: English national championships, Wembley Arena  
Apr 14: Inter-county championships: second division  
Apr 29-May 5: World championships, Copenhagen

### BASEBALL

Apr 1: Major League season begins  
Oct 12: World Series begins

### BASKETBALL

Feb 27: League all-star game, Grimsby  
Mar 2-3: Coca Cola Cup finals  
Apr 12-13: Carlsberg championships, Birmingham  
June 25-30: European championship (men)  
June 25-30: European championship (women)

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Jan 6: Play-offs begin  
Jan 12-13: Divisional play-off games  
Jan 13: Conference championship games  
Jan 27: Super Bowl XXV, Tampa, Florida

### ARCHERY

June 8-9: UK Masters, Litchfield  
July 3-5: GNAH, Litchfield  
Aug 1-11: British target championships, Litchfield  
Aug 25-26: National compound championships  
May 28: National light championships, Conestable Barton  
Feb 15-16: Indoor compound championships, Stoke Mandeville

### ATHLETICS

Jan 5: Muller International cross country, Belfast  
Jan 12: International cross country, Limerick  
Feb 2-3: Pearl Assurance AAA-WAAA indoor championships, Coventry  
Feb 8: World cross country championships, Coventry  
Feb 12: Italy v Yugoslavia v Great Britain indoor international, Turin  
Feb 17: Daily Express indoor invitation, Coventry  
Feb 23: France v Spain v Italy v Soviet Union v Germany v Great Britain (one-day), Paris  
May 2: Great Britain



# All-powerful All Blacks start as favourites again

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Rugby union's inaugural World Cup in 1987 was the product of many years' gestation; only with reluctance did the four home unions agree to its inception, yet now it dominates the thinking of all the leading rugby-playing countries, and many of the minor ones, too.

The second tournament takes place in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and France in October, 1991 — who would believe that one of the recommendations from the 1987 tournament, staged in New Zealand and Australia, was that the competition should be confined to one country?

If playing success was the only criterion then France, beaten finalists in 1987, should have been the first northern-hemisphere hosts, but it was agreed that the countries which make up the five nations championship should share the distinction. There is a certain irony in that, too, since it was the existence and immense popularity of the annual championship which was one of the motivating forces behind the Antipodean push for a World Cup in the first place.

New Zealand, the holders, will open the 1991 tournament against England at Twickenham, where the final will also be staged on November 2. It takes only scant knowledge of rugby to know that the All Blacks, formidable opponents in any era, will not concede the Webb Ellis Trophy easily and that, in the continued absence of South Africa, they remain the favourites.

New Zealand's preparations will occupy two levels during the coming months: their senior side has a tour scheduled to Argentina and, in August, they play Australia home and away; they also have home tours by Romania and the USSR in which to refine their World-Cup squad before arrival in Britain in mid-September.

Gary Whetton, the Auckland lock who succeeded Wayne Shelford as New Zealand's captain last summer, looks likely to conclude a decade in the All-Black second row during the tournament. He already holds, jointly with Colin Meads, his country's record as most-capped lock.

In September England will be completing an internal tour which incorporates games against the USSR, Gloucester and England Students. Geoff Cooke, the national team manager, was an interested observer when New Zealand beat France in their two-match series in November and, though he dismisses the myth of New Zealand invincibility, recognises how difficult they remain to beat.

England and Scotland appear, at this stage, to represent the best northern-hemisphere hope for success in the tournament, unless France emerge like some phoenix from the ashes of 1990. Scotland, in pool two alongside Ireland, Zimbabwe and Japan, will be rewarded with a string of home games if they can keep the winning habit while England, like Wales, have a close-season visit to Australia.



Unbreakable lock: Whetton, certain to be a key figure

## PROGRAMME FOR THE WORLD CUP

Oct 3: England v New Zealand, Twickenham, 3.0	Oct 12: Scotland v Ireland, Murrayfield, 1.0; Wales v Australia, Cardiff, 3.0; France v Canada, Agen, 8.0
Oct 4: Australia v Argentina, Llanelli, 2.0; France v Romania, Bezzers, 8.0	Oct 13: New Zealand v Italy, Leicester, 1.0; Fiji v Romania, Brive, 8.0
Oct 5: Italy v United States, Oyley, 1.0; Scotland v Japan, Murrayfield, 3.0; Fiji v Canada, Bezzers, 8.0	Oct 14: Argentina v Western Samoa, Portlough, 7.0
Oct 6: Wales v Western Samoa, Cardiff, 1.0; Ireland v Zimbabwe, Dublin, 3.0	Oct 15: Winner Pool 2 v Runner-up Pool 3, Murrayfield, 1.0; Winner Pool 4 v Runner-up Pool 1, Paris, 2.45
Oct 7: New Zealand v United States, Gloucester, 1.0; England v Fiji, Twickenham, 3.0; France v Italy, Grenoble, 8.0	Oct 20: Winner Pool 3 v Runner-up Pool 2, Llanelli, 1.0; Winner Pool 1 v Runner-up Pool 4, Lille, 2.45
Oct 8: Wales v Argentina, Cardiff, 1.0; Scotland v Zimbabwe, Murrayfield, 3.0; Ireland v Japan, Dublin, 6.0; Australia v Western Samoa, Portlough, 8.0; Canada v Romania, Toulouse, 8.0	Oct 22: Semi-final A v D, Cardiff, 2.30
Oct 11: England v United States, Twickenham, 3.0	Oct 23: Third and fourth place play-off, Cardiff, 2.30

## RUGBY

Mar 12: Women's Head of the River, River Thames  
Mar 22: Head of the River Race, River Thames  
Mar 30: Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race, Putney, London  
Apr 6: FISA Cup: San Diego crew classic  
Apr 6: Solihull Head of the River, River Thames  
Apr 20-21: FISA Cup: Plediluco Regatta, Italy  
May 10-12: Ghent Regatta, power sprint  
May 11-12: Mannheim Regatta, Germany  
May 25-26: FISA Cup: Duisburg Regatta, Germany  
May 26-27: FISA Cup: Regatta, Germany  
May 29-30: FISA Cup: Amsterdam Regatta, Netherlands  
July 3-7: Henley Royal Regatta  
July 12-14: FISA Cup: Lucerne Regatta, Switzerland  
July 15-17: FISA Cup: Lucerne Regatta, Switzerland  
July 17-19: FISA Cup: Lucerne Regatta, Switzerland  
Aug 18-20: World championships, Vienna

## SHOOTING

Jan 12: Royal Trophy, final  
Jan 26: British Open under-21 international: France v Great Britain, Llanelli  
Jan 27: British Open Test: France v Great Britain, Llanelli  
Feb 9: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, first round  
Feb 15: British Open under-21 international: Great Britain v France  
Feb 16: British Open Test: Great Britain v France  
Feb 28: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, second round  
Mar 5: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, first round  
Mar 12: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, third round  
Mar 19: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Mar 26: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, semi-final  
Apr 2: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, second semi-final  
Apr 9: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Apr 16: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Apr 23: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Apr 30: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
May 7: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
May 14: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
May 21: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
May 28: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Jun 4: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
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Aug 27: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
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Sep 17: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
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Nov 19: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Nov 26: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Dec 3: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Dec 10: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Dec 17: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Dec 24: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final  
Dec 31: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, final

## WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jan 24-31: Monte Carlo  
Feb 14-15: Sweden  
Feb 16-17: Portugal  
Feb 17-18: Saudi Arabia  
Feb 19-20: Tour de Corse  
Mar 1-2: Acropolis, Greece  
Mar 3-4: New Zealand  
Mar 5-6: Argentina  
Mar 7-8: 1000 Lakes, Finland  
Mar 9-10: Australia  
Mar 11-12: San Remo, Italy  
Mar 13-14: Ivory Coast  
Mar 15-16: Lombard RAC, Britain  
Mar 17-18: Lombard RAC, Britain  
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BOXING

Tyson goes to law to stop Foreman meeting Holyfield

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Mike Tyson filed a \$50 million suit here on Thursday to stop Evander Holyfield, the world heavyweight champion, from meeting the challenger, George Foreman, on April 19 in Atlantic City.

Tyson, the former champion, filed the suit against the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the International Boxing Federation (IBF) in the US District Court in Manhattan.

Tyson alleges that the WBA and IBF violated their own rules when they denied him a rematch with James Douglas after Douglas upset him as champion last February in Tokyo. Tyson said that the two boxing organisations decided he would be the challenger if Holyfield won the October championship bout with Douglas, which Holyfield did.

But the decision that Tyson would then box Holyfield was rescinded, Tyson alleged, when WBA attorney James Binnis allegedly persuaded the WBA executive committee to let Foreman be the challenger. Binnis is a consultant to Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva.

Tyson claims that Holyfield wanted to meet Foreman first because he is a less formidable opponent. The lawsuit described Foreman, who is staging a comeback after a long break from boxing, as "over 40 years old, overweight and widely recognised to be out of boxing condition."

The suit asks for \$10 million each from the WBA, the IBF, and the promoters of those organisations, Gilberto Mendoza and Robert Lee, and from Binnis.

The rival World Boxing Council has ruled that Holyfield should meet Tyson in his next championship bout.

● Francesco Damiani, the unbeaten Italian heavyweight, has flown to the United States to defend his World Boxing Organisation title against Ray Mercer, of America in Atlantic City on January 11.

Damiani, who has a professional record of 26 wins in 26 bouts, said before leaving Milan: "I am aware that American experts are underestimating my qualities. I bet I am going to disillusion them."

● The World Boxing Council has named Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez boxer of the month for December. The World Boxing Association has named Kaosy Galary as its boxer of the month for December.

HOCKEY

Gibbins's blunder costs Midlands

SOUTH-EAST started the defence of their under-18 title with a 1-0 win over East on the first leg of the Divisional tournament at Coventry School yesterday. A goal in the 18th minute by Walker from a short corner proved decisive after East had failed to capitalise on a couple of early chances despite the efforts of Davis.

Earlier, South-West, with Waugh of Wellington College and Southgate in defence, lost 2-1 to West. For whom Coast scored early in the second half. Gibson levelled the score, but ten minutes from time Pullen converted a short corner for West. For their next match South-West changed their goalkeeper, bringing in Lewis, of Havant, for Prestwich and won 2-0.

The rain had intensified by the time North-East faced Midlands for a match which ended in a 1-1 draw. Gibbins, a member of the England under-

Life, limb and machine again tackle the deserts of Africa in the thirteenth Paris to Dakar rally

A true test of attrition and courage

By DAVID CHAPPELL

THE Road to Dakar would have been a worthy addition to the series of films by Messrs Hope and Crosby, combining as they did a sense of fun and adventure. But the journey from the boulevards of Paris to the Atlantic shores of the Senegalese capital is more than that; fraught with pitfalls, physical and moral, it nevertheless attracts large numbers of willing migrants prepared to match body and machine against some of the most inhospitable terrain on earth.

The 1991 Paris-Tripoli-Dakar Rally, which starts today, is the thirteenth such venture through what was once French colonial Africa. What started as a winter diversion for wealthy but bored Parisians in the late 1970s has burgeoned into a multi-million pound event. It remains essentially a French passion and, at a time of economic recession and environmental sensitivity, an anomaly.

More than 400 cars, trucks and motorcycles will leave the Chateau de Vincennes this morning relishing the challenge of what is described as the world's harshest rally. It has a history of derring-do, camaraderie, glory and death: a minority will reach the finish on the west coast of Africa 20 days from now but, as with all classic sporting challenges, it is as much a question of taking part.

While it is inevitable that the Citroen, Mitsubishi and Lada teams, supported by a veritable army of service crew, will dominate, the organisers have been trying to recapture the original spirit by giving the amateur entrants as good a chance to compete on equal terms as possible.

That is one reason behind the shorter route yet proposed — 9,186 kilometres of stages, five countries and 16 days in Africa. But more importantly, there is greater scope for the notorious unpredictability of driving across the desert with four marathon two-day stages and increased reliance of navigation skills.

The tales of lost time and lost drivers (remember Mark Thatcher missing for six days in 1982 and rescued at a cost of \$300,000) are legend on *Le Dakar*, as are some of the encounters with the Tuaregs

and nomads. Ari Vatanen, the Finnish driver, lost his chance of victory in 1988 when his Peugeot was stolen, and many entrants have fallen victim to muggers and thieves.

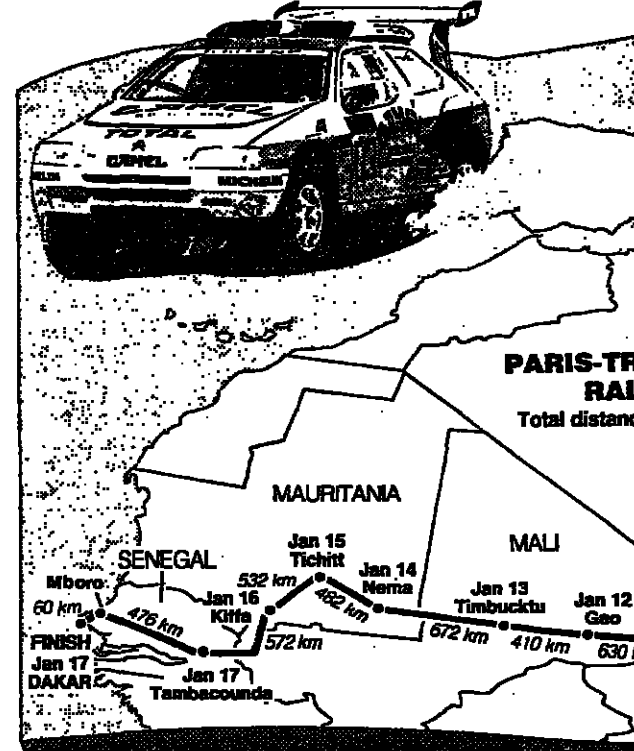
But against that, the organisers have faced a powerful lobby to control an event that has cost the lives of 26 competitors, spectators and journalists in 12 years. Increased medical support, stages taken away from the mud huts and villages, speed limits imposed under penalty of disqualification and a restriction on power are all designed to improve the image of an event which three years ago became known as the rally of death. The winner on that occasion, Juha Kankkunen, vowed never to return after six people died.

A rally which left only dust and death in its exhaust fumes was not what Thierry Sabine had in mind when he created the event. While it cost him his life in 1985, when the helicopter in which he was following the rally crashed in the dunes, his fondness for Africa and desire to bring aid and contact with the outside world has been maintained.

Despite the adverse publicity and severe warnings from international motor sport's governing bodies, Sabine's father, Gilbert, has preached the gospel of the Dakar, although it has either been ignored on environmental grounds or gone unheeded in countries such as Britain, despite the lure of a future start in London.

However, the spirit of adventure remains. For the 100 or so motorcyclists, the challenge is the same as that for the likes of Vatanen, who will be going for a third successive victory, and the others in a field of 735. The intense heat, the featureless erg (vast rolling tracts of dunes), the mosquitoes... all the *Dakars* are in the same boat. The desert is there to be crossed.

Vatanen has an added burden. Carrying the pride of France after Peugeot's withdrawal to concentrate on the world sports car championship following four successive victories, Citroen must make a winning debut. The threat from Mitsubishi is



Men with a mission: The Citroen team's hopes rest with (from left) Ickx, Vatanen, Waldegard and Ambrosino

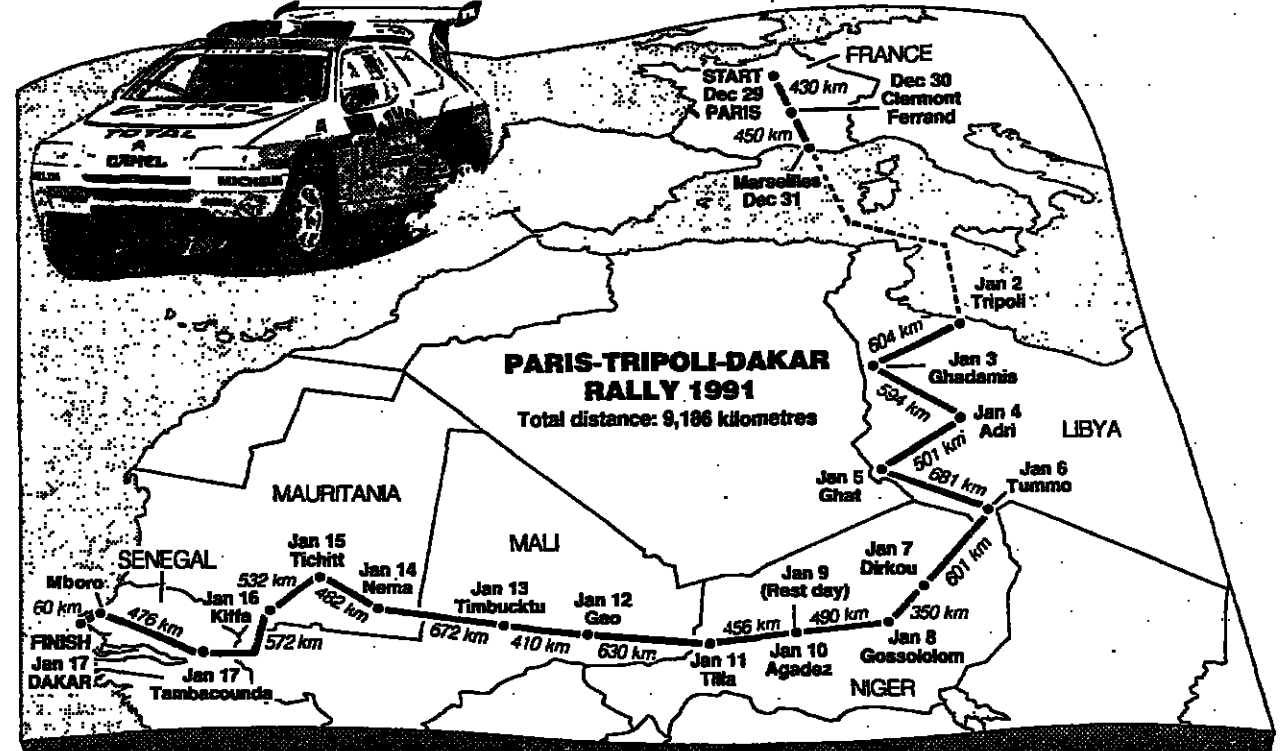
as much commercial as competitive — the African car market is at stake.

And Citroen suffered a reverse in the Rally of the Pharaohs in November when Lada took the honours. The Citroen ZXs were affected by differential problems in Egypt and two of their drivers, Jacky Ickx and Alain Ambrosino, have covered 2,000 miles of testing in Niger as a result.

Ickx, a former winner, is one of four former Formula One drivers in the 1991 rally and with Vatanen, Bjorn Waldegard and Ambrosino, forms the most formidable team. Kenneth Eriksson, the former world rally champion, leads the Mitsubishi opposition in the event while Hubert Auriol hopes to maintain Lada's success.



Men with a mission: The Citroen team's hopes rest with (from left) Ickx, Vatanen, Waldegard and Ambrosino



Following the preliminaries in to Marseille and a crossing of the Mediterranean, the rally proper opens in Tripoli on Wednesday. From the Libyan capital, the route winds south through the Tenere desert and Niger, with the only rest day at Agadez. Westwards across the Sahel desert towards Mali and Timbuktu, to the highlight, in Mauritania, with the stage from Nema to Tichit and into Senegal and the finish.

French superstition dictates that the custom of giving an edition number to each event cannot be followed in 1991. Last year was the twelfth edition, 1992 will be the fourteenth... today is the start simply of the 1991 Paris-Tripoli-Dakar Rally. If ever the adage of fortune favouring the brave was apt, then perhaps it is now.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Table with multiple columns listing football fixtures for various leagues including Barclays League, Football League, and others.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Table listing rugby league fixtures for various teams including Widnes, Warrington, and others.

Widnes set to face an explosive test

WHEN Warrington and Widnes meet at an any level, it is only necessary to light the blue touch paper and retire. The tough Boxing Day derby, again 6-2 by Widnes, emphasised again the league placings count for little when these sides confront each other, and today's second semi-final of the Regal Trophy may make nonsense of the fact that Warrington are in the bottom reaches of the first division table while Widnes lie in second place.

Warrington had better news of injuries yesterday. Their two centres, Bateson and Thurstley, could be fit to would entail the New Zealand international, Mercer, again to move into the second row of the pack.

Short-handed in the forward, Jackson, who has damaged knee ligaments, joining the captain, Mike Gregory, on the long-term injured list.

Widnes also have their injury problems, with Davies ruled out for some time following the thigh injury he received in a training accident, and the centre, Wright, also unfit. Carlsie, starting from an unexpected reverse, will try to take it out on Workington Town in yet another derby fixture, but will find Town in determined mood under the skilled leadership of the player-coach, Ray Ashton.

In the second division, two promotion contenders are in home action. Ryedale York have Barns visitors, and while this would have seemed a simple option for them a week ago, Barrow surprised everyone by beating Carlisle 34-4 in the holiday Cumbrian derby, and Carlisle, starting from an unexpected reverse, will try to take it out on Workington Town in yet another derby fixture, but will find Town in determined mood under the skilled leadership of the player-coach, Ray Ashton.

SPORT ON TV

Table listing sports events on television, including American Football, Basketball, and other sports.



## UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

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## UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990 High Low Company Bid Price Offer Change % P/E						1990 High Low Company Bid Price Offer Change % P/E					
21	352	Barnes	30	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
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24	24	355	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
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115	24	446	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
116	24	447	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
117	24	448	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
118	24	449	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
119	24	450	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
120	24	451	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
121	24	452	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
122	24	453	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
123	24	454	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
124	24	455	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
125	24	456	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
126	24	457	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
127	24	458	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
128	24	459	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
129	24	460	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
130	24	461	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
131	24	462	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
132	24	463	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
133	24	464	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
134	24	465	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
135	24	466	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
136	24	467	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
137	24	468	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
138	24	469	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
139	24	470	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
140	24	471	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
141	24	472	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
142	24	473	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
143	24	474	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
144	24	475	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
145	24	476	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
146	24	477	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
147	24	478	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
148	24	479	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
149	24	480	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
150	24	481	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
151	24	482	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
152	24	483	18	7	157	24	38	348	358	10	26
153	24</										

## MONEY MARKETS

**Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 93.2 (day's range 93.0-93.2).**

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 28	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.8870-1.9220	1.9215-1.9220	1.12-1.10	2.00-2.70
London	2.2006-2.2220	2.2220-2.2220	0.30-0.20	0.87-0.75
3 month	3.30-3.25	3.25-3.25	31-30	
Brussels	159.49-160.76	160.37-57.71	25-18	57-32
Copenhagen	11.058-11.1635	11.1635-1.1635	11-9	11-9
Dublin	1.0834-1.1083	1.0834-1.084	31-25	65-37
Frankfurt	2.8733-2.8974	2.8735-2.897	11-11	3-4
Lisbon	2.58-2.58.35	2.58-14.35	44-44	
Madrid	182.95-185.11	184.23-184.03	4-13	26-24
Osaka	2182.00-2185.67	2176.10-2183.57	1-5	7-2
Paris	111.28-111.3437	111.28-111.34	31-25	65-37
Paris	9.7859-9.8458	9.8039-9.8598	4-3	8-7
Stockholm	10.7747-10.8556	10.8084-10.8558	par-10	par-10
Switzerland	252.50-253.68	252.50-253.68	12-25	25-12
Vienna	20.20-20.33	20.25-20.30	9-9	23-20
Zurich	2.4336-2.4620	2.4557-2.4614	11-11	3-3

Source: *Eurol*      Premium = +      Discount = -

## MONEY RATES

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 14	Finance Hse 14			
Discount Market Rates: Overnight 14	Low 12	Week fixed: 14%		
Three Bill (Gilt): Buying: 2 mm 13 1/2	13 mm 13 1/2	Selling: 2 mm 13 1/2	13 mm 13 1/2	

	1 month	2 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Prime Bank Bills (Gilt): 13 1/2-13 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Trade Bills (Gilt): 14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Interbank: 14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Local Authority Depos: 14 1/2	n/a	14	13 1/2	12 1/2	n/a
Sterling Cash: 14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Overnight: 14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Building Society Cash: 14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2

## EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Dollar	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2
French Franc:	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2
French Franc:	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2
Swiss Franc:	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2
Yen:	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2

## GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open \$385.00-385.50	Close: \$386.20-386.70		
High: \$387.10-387.60	Low: \$384.60-385.10		
Platinum: \$412.00 (\$214.90)	Silver: \$4.105 (\$2.18)		

## OTHER STERLING RATES

Australia dollar*	10650.1-10674.9
Argentina dollar	2.4844-2.4890
Berlin	2.07-2.07
Brussels	318.547-319.572
Cyprus pound	0.82-0.82
Poland marla	0.9775-0.9878
Greece drachma	250.30-302.10
Hong kong dollar	14.8458-14.8528
India rupee	34.25-34.25
Kuwait dirr	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	3.1522-3.2009
India rupee	22.70-22.70
New Zealand dollar	3.2894-3.2914
Saudi Arabia riyal	3.3397-3.3414
Singapore dollar	2.00-2.00
S Africa rand (rf)	6.4519-6.5561
S Africa rand (com)	4.9008-4.9128
US dollar	1.615-1.615
Berlyns Bank \$/S "Lloyds Bank	

## DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.7710-1.7725
Singapore	1.7415-1.7435
Canada	2.20-2.21
Canada	2.2986-2.3083
Norway	1.1562-1.1602
Sweden	5.6400-5.

## INVESTMENT TRUST

[illegible]







# The Gulf great unknown that threatens a happy new year

Recession, realism and a resumption of Labour rule—three factors to occupy investors and the markets. My triple forecast is that the general election will take place next year, that Mr Major will win, and that by year-end the FT-SE 100 index will be 250-300 points higher than now, to form, with much lower levels of interest and inflation, a solid platform for the next bull market.

There is one great unknown—war in the Middle East. It has been induced by events in the Gulf and increasing as the January deadline approaches, is chiefly responsible for the lethargy of markets. The outbreak of war, arguably, is discounted in share prices. The darker consequences of war, emphatically, are not. We must hope for a peaceful New Year.

**By ANGELA MACKAY**

THE shareholders of Associated British Foods (ABF) approved the £880 million purchase of British Sugar from Berrisford International, three years after the company mounted an aborted £767 million bid for the entire Berrisford group.

British companies were in the final bidding for British Sugar: ABF, Tate & Lyle, Hesseman, and two European bidders. ABF, led by Garry Weston, made one offer of £880 million and had the advantage of being cleared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission before the deal was completed.

In addition to the £880 million, Berrisford will also receive about £18 million representing British Sugar's expected net profit between September 30, 1990, and January 2, 1991, when the deal should be completed. The group of banks involved in refinancing Berrisford approved the sale of British Sugar this month.

Berrisford shareholders also approved the sale at a separate extraordinary general meeting yesterday. Mr Weston, who still owns a 24 per cent stake in Berrisford, is believed to be considering buying another small part of Berrisford's food business.

At the meeting, Mr Weston and his deputy, Harry Bailey, told shareholders that an expected reduction in the fixed price of sugar as a result of the current General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade round had already been factored into the price.

Analysts had earlier predicted British Sugar would be sold for about £1 billion. The sale largely removes debt from Berrisford's balance sheet.

### Golden Vale deal

Golden Vale, the Irish dairy products group, is buying Eddbrooke & Son (which trades as Bridgend Creamery) and Collins Dairies, a related company, for £3.53 million.

**MICHAEL CLARK**

**DOCKS**

RECENT ISSUES	
<b>EQUITIES</b>	
Atlanta Resources	3
Aberforth Smir Cos	10
Brabant Res	15
CMW Group	28
Castle Cairn (50p)	3
ECU Tot	41 1/2
ERM Inc Tot	25

\*Denotes latest trading price

## Source: Morgan Stanley Capital Intl.

because of pressure on spa

**Closing prices**

\*Denotes latest trading price

● 2019年12月15日 星期一

because of pressure on space







## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Portico	Drugs/Stores	1.00
2	LMT Co	Leisure	1.00
3	SA Breweries	Breweries	1.00
4	Wish Water	Water	1.00
5	THORN EMI (an)	Electronics	1.00
6	Smiths (an)	Electronics S-Z	1.00
7	Bardays (an)	Electronics	1.00
8	Microgen	Electronics	1.00
9	Woods Motor	Motor/Aircraft	1.00
10	Star Water	Water	1.00
11	Hambro Country	Finance	1.00
12	Dawson	Textiles	1.00
13	Admiral	Electronics	1.00
14	Opus & Med	Electronics L-R	1.00
15	Liberty	Drugs/Stores	1.00
16	Caffrey	Motor/Aircraft	1.00
17	Perimeter	Building Roads	1.00
18	Bespak	Electronics A-D	1.00
19	Marshall	Building Roads	1.00
20	Seven Trest	Water	1.00
21	Power Co	Newspapers/Pub	1.00
22	Bridgeport	Electronics A-D	1.00
23	Stakis	Electronics	1.00
24	Red Int (an)	Motor/Aircraft	1.00
25	Laporte (an)	Chemicals/Plas	1.00
26	Booker	Food	1.00
27	Carlson Comm	Leisure	1.00
28	Polypipe	Electronics L-R	1.00
29	Jacobs (an)	Transport	1.00
30	Magdalen Brick	Building Roads	1.00
31	AAF Int	Electronics A-D	1.00
32	Bell Bros	Building Roads	1.00
33	Harrison Credit (an)	Electronics E-K	1.00
34	Graham Wood	Building Roads	1.00
35	Marine Cocks	Transport	1.00
36	North West	Water	1.00
37	Syconics	Electronics S-Z	1.00
38	Cosmos	Building Roads	1.00
39	Chlorine	Property	1.00
40	Wessex Water	Water	1.00
41	Christies Int	Electronics A-D	1.00
42	Powco	Chemicals/Plas	1.00
43	Savoy Hotels 'A'	Hotels/Caterers	1.00
44	Shupe & Fisher	Building Roads	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

#### Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The winner of the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday was Mr Peter Wiesner, of Bath.

#### BRITISH FUNDS

1990 High Low Share Price Dividend Yield %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1000	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1001	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1002	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1003	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1004	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1005	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1006	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1007	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1008	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1009	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1010	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1011	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1012	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1013	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1014	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1015	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1016	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1017	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1018	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1019	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1020	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1021	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1022	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1023	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1024	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1025	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1026	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1027	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1028	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1029	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1030	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1031	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1032	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1033	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1034	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1035	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1036	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1037	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1038	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1039	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1040	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1041	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1042	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1043	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1044	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1045	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1046	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1047	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1048	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1049	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1050	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

UNDATED	1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1051	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1052	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1053	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1054	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1055	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

INDEX-LINKED	1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1056	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1057	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1058	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1059	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1060	100.00	99.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

#### BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1061	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1062	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1063	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1064	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1065	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1066	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1067	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1068	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1069	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1070	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Trading generally mixed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 10, Dealings ended yesterday. \$Contango day December 31. Settlement day January 7.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 35).

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1071	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1072	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1073	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1074	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1075	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1076	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1077	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1078	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1079	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1080	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1081	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1082	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1083	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1084	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1085	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1086	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1087	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1088	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1089	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1090	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1091	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1092	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1093	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1094	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1095	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1096	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1097	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1098	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1099	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1100	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1101	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1102	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1103	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1104	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1105	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1106	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1107	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1108	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1109	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1110	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1111	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1112	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1113	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1114	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1115	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1116	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1117	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1118	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1119	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1120	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1121	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1122	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1123	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1124	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1125	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1126	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1127	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1128	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1129	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1130	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1131	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1132	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1133	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1134	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1135	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1136	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1137	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1138	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1139	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1140	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50

1990 High	1990 Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield %
1141	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1142	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1143	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1144	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1145	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1146	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1147	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1148	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1149	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1150	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1151	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1152	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
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1188	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1189	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1190	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1191	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1192	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1193	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1194	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1195	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1196	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1197	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1198	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1199	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50
1200	100.00	99.50	0.50	0.50



# Extra staff cope with demand as banks and building

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

HUNDREDS of millions of pounds are expected to be transferred into tax exempt special savings accounts next week when Tessa officially get under way. Banks and building societies have been surprised by the response and had to lay on extra resources to deal with the demand for the new accounts. Announced in the Budget, Tessa is totally free of income tax so long as the investor withdraws no more than the net interest for five years. They allow adults to invest up to £3,000 in year one and a total of £9,000 over five years.

Tessa were designed by John Major, the then chancellor, to encourage saving. But while they appear to be proving popular with existing savers, who want to earn 33 per cent more interest, savings institutions do not believe that much of the money is newly saved.

They are aware, though, that a great deal of money in traditional savings accounts is at risk and are competing strongly to offer the best terms to make sure that money does not flow out to other banks and building societies. And unless they want savers to transfer their Tessa in great numbers later, they will have to keep their interest rates competitive. The Inland Rev-

enue estimates that Tessa will cost £20 million in lost tax up until April 5 and then £200 million in 1991-2.

Under the scheme rules, investors are allowed to transfer their money from one financial institution to another without losing the tax advantages. In some cases a penalty will be charged by the bank or building society to discourage such transfers. This can be a flat £50 for transfers or a substantial reduction in the interest rate for early withdrawals so it is important to find out if there are penalties before opening an account. Most penalties are more modest.

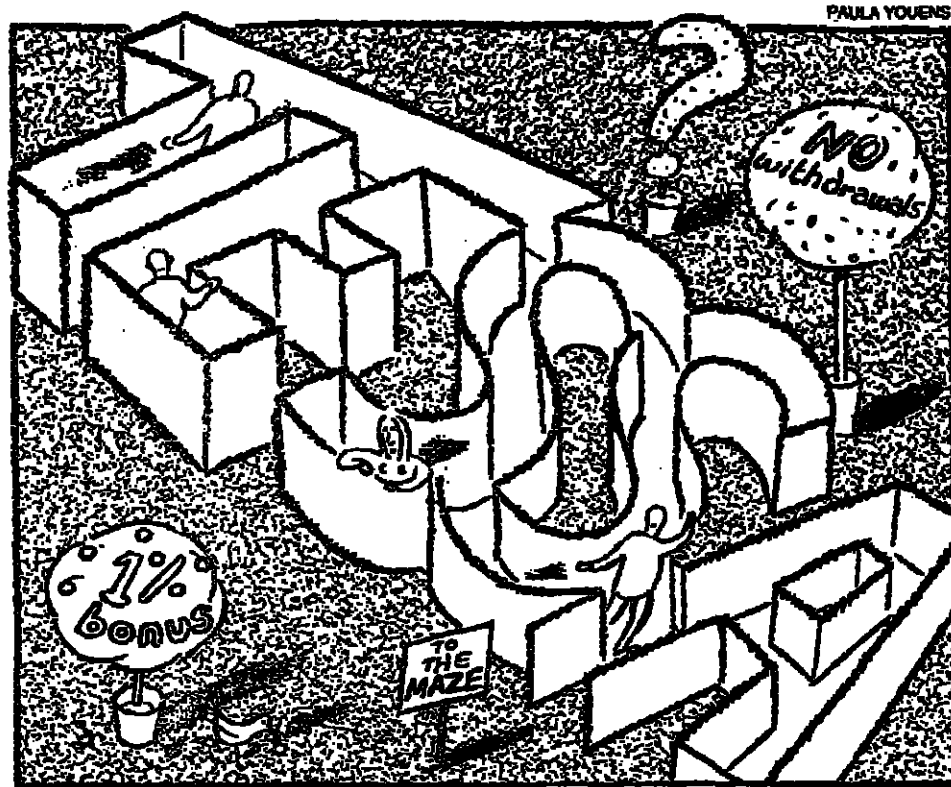
The majority of the new accounts have no penalty and allow maximum flexibility for investors so that they do not feel their money is locked up for five years.

In most cases the core interest rates are offered on monthly and lump sum accounts, unless otherwise stated. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has staff working throughout the weekend opening London Share accounts for investors wanting to use the account for their tax free Tessa. The society received more than double the previous daily record of mail for the postal

account on Christmas Eve. The society is offering up to 15.33 per cent interest on its Tessa. There are no bonuses and no penalties for early withdrawal.

Such has been the demand for application forms that the C&G is allowing investors to open London Share accounts through branches for the next two weeks. Usually, the account, which was launched in February 1989, is dealt with strictly by post only.

A spokeswoman said: "There is a vast amount of new money coming in. A lot of it is electricity refunds, which were originally invested with other societies. We have taken on a lot of extra staff to cope with the demand." Some savers have even asked for the application forms to be faxed to them. The society's Maxi Tessa operates in conjunction with the London Share and Cheltenham Gold Accounts. Each January it transfers the maximum allowed from the feeder account. The minimum investment is £3,000 with subsequent transfers being made annually to reach the overall maximum of £9,000 in five years. It pays 13.67 per cent tax-free when linked to the Cheltenham Gold account and 15.33 per cent when linked to the London Share account. The society's Flexi-



Tessa starts with a minimum investment of £100 and pays 12 per cent. A Freezone information service is available on 0800 717505.

Lloyds Bank offered the first 25,000 savers to put a £9,000 lump sum into a Tessa feeder account a 2 per cent bonus for the first year, giving a rate of 15.5 per cent. The

bank has nearly reached this figure. It is also offering Tessa investors who sign up before the end of February a 1 per cent bonus for the first year. Lloyds is paying 13.5 per cent at the outset on the Tessa and the feeder account. The latter is paid net of tax.

The bank will charge a 2 per cent penalty fee in year one to

anyone who withdraws capital, invalidating the accounts tax status. This is increased to 3 per cent for those who received the 2 per cent bonus. After year one the penalty for closure will be 1 per cent with a minimum of £25. The bank's helpline is on 0222 728716. The Halifax Building Society received 600,000 registra-

tions for its Tessa before it even announced the interest rate. The account pays up to 13.5 per cent and the society expects a large percentage of those registered to convert into Tessa accounts next week.

The society is offering bonuses of up to £307 on the account. It will charge no penalty for early withdrawals but has a flat fee of £10 for anyone who wants to transfer their tax exempt account to another institution. The minimum investment is £25 and there is no minimum for monthly subscriptions.

National Westminster Bank is paying 14 per cent on its Tessa Reserve, which, because the interest is paid quarterly, compounds to an annual rate of 14.75 per cent. Most Tessa interest is being credited annually. In addition, a 1 per cent bonus will be paid on the first year's contributions for savers who open an account before the end of March. There is no minimum investment and no penalty fees for early closure or transfer of the account.

Applicants for Save & Prosper's Tessa before January 14 will receive 15.25 per cent, including a 1 per cent bonus for the first year, on the variable interest rate and 13 per cent on the fixed rate account. Both rates are compounded with interest being paid monthly. The minimum investment is £500 and net interest can be paid quarterly subject to a minimum of £20. Investors will be able to switch between fixed and variable rates on each account anniversary. Those anticipating a fall of two to three per cent in bank base rates in the first half of 1991 may feel the certainty of a fixed rate outweighs the initial higher rates being offered on variable accounts.

Those who want to transfer money or close the account will pay a £50 penalty. Ian Lindsey, banking director, explained that this was because Save & Prosper is paying commission of 1 per cent to brokers and will have setting up costs for each account. More information is available on its free Moneyline on 0800 282101.

Nationwide Building Soci-

ety is paying a core interest rate of 14 per cent on its lump sum Tessa plus a one per cent bonus for the first year for those who have already signed up under the society's registration scheme and open an account before the end of February. A further 0.5 per cent is being offered to customers who take up other Nationwide services and a loyalty bonus of 0.5 per cent of the final balance will be paid. The society's savings plan pays 13.5 per cent on sums from £25.

John Hutchinson, retail operations director, said there had been a great deal of interest in Tessa but he did not expect them to be as popular as mainstream savings account because of the limitation to one Tessa per saver every five years.

There is no penalty for cashing in or transfer and none of the bonuses except the terminal one is lost for early withdrawal.

Mr Hutchinson said: "I think it is very important that people do not lose money. Much of it will be new business to us, although Tessa are not going to generate new money." Interest can be paid monthly without affecting the tax free status of the account. The society reported that it has already received a lot of post-dated cheques from people wanting to open Tessa.

Abbey National is paying 13.8 per cent initially on its Tessa and guarantees that the rate will remain at least 5.5 per cent above the first tier of its Instant Saver account. The minimum investment is £1. Customers must give 28 days to transfer a Tessa without charge or pay £20.

Midland Bank is paying 13.5 per cent on sums from £10 and will charge no penalties, so long as 14 days notice of transfer or closure is given. Instant withdrawals will cost 25p per £100. Firstdirect, Midland's telephone banking subsidiary, is paying 13 per cent below £1,000 and 13.5 per cent above. Unlike most financial institutions it will be available on New Year's Day on 0345 100 100.

Barclays is paying 13 per cent and requires a minimum

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## Credit card firms offer holiday discounts to users

AS ONE credit card issuer starts to offer discounts on holidays, another is terminating its holiday club.

Save & Prosper is launching a holiday service with Page & Moy, Barclays' subsidiary, on January 1. TSB is closing its travel club from the end of this month. Until then, Trustcard holders receive discounts of 5 per cent (up to a maximum of £250) on holidays booked through AT Mays. However, TSB expects to announce a new scheme early next year (writes Lindsay Cook).

Save & Prosper Visa and Mastercard credit card customers, plus the premier, classic and high interest bank account customers, will be able to obtain a £1 discount for every £15 spent on holidays booked through the travel agency, Ian Lindsey, banking director, said this was the first of a range of benefits to be offered to banking and credit card customers in 1991.

The company plans to add private healthcare membership, a car recovery service and a card registration service. Barclays also offers money back through Page & Moy, up to a maximum of £500. Barclaycard holders must pay at least the deposit and the holiday insurance with a Barclaycard.

The discounts vary according to which travel company the holiday is taken with. To receive the maximum discount, holidaymakers must book a holiday costing £7,500 or more.

Cardholders can also save £5 for every £100 spent on published international air ticket prices booked through

the travel agency. The discount is paid by cheque at the time the tickets are issued.

Midland Bank offers Visa and Access customers up to £500 off holidays booked through more than 100 tour and cruise operators, including Thomas Cook, Thomson, Intasun, Poundstretchers, P&O Cruises and Neilson. Cardholders must book using the Midland Discount Holidays telephone line on 0733 896622. The maximum discount is available on holidays costing more than £8,000.

Girobank offers Visa customers an extra £1 holiday spending money for every £15 spent using its Travel Connection service. This includes many of the leading Association of British Tour Operators and there is no upper limit for the discount. To be eligible for the discount, cardholders should telephone the service on 061 480 8844 between 9am and 7pm on weekdays and up to 5pm on Saturdays.

People booking a car from Avis Car Hire through Girobank Travel Connection will receive an extra day free for every six consecutive days booked, plus spending money. The Royal Bank of Scotland has a £500 maximum discount on bookings made on its Access card through its holiday service.

Only the deposit on a holiday has to be paid through the card to qualify. The service offers holidays from more than 100 tour operators, with the maximum discount available on travel costing more than £8,000.

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

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# societies race to tempt Tessa investors

saving of £25 a month. The bank's helpline on 0800 400144 is receiving 250 calls a day between 8am and 10pm. A 24 hour service begins on January 2.

The Woolwich Building Society is paying 13 per cent on sums from £25 and 14 per cent from £3,000. There is a 1 per cent bonus in the first year for those who open an account before the end of March. An additional bonus of 0.25 per cent will be added in years two, three, four and five on the anniversary of the account being opened. Withdrawals and transfers can be made without penalty.

The Alliance & Leicester Building Society is paying 14.5 per cent on sums above £10 and a guaranteed differential above its gross ordinary share rate of 4 per cent. There is a transfer fee equivalent to 28 days' interest.

The National & Provincial Building Society is paying 13.5 per cent on its Tessa and offers a monthly interest option paying 12.73 per cent. There is a 0.5 per cent bonus in the first year if a husband and wife both open accounts at the same time. All investors will receive 0.5 per cent bonuses at the end of years four and five.

The society, which reports a strong response to its Tessa mailing, has had 60,000 applications. It will charge £10

for transfers, but no penalty for full withdrawals. Investors who draw more than the net interest and invalidate their Tessa will have the interest reduced to the ordinary share rate. A spokesman said that customers will be given warning of the consequences if they withdraw too much interest.

The Leeds Permanent Building Society is paying 14 per cent on its Tessa Cook account, which requires three months' notice to close the account otherwise 90 days' interest will be charged.

The Bradford & Bingley offers 15 per cent, including a 1 per cent bonus for the first year for those who invest a £9,000 lump sum into a feeder account.

Its lump sum account pays 14 per cent, including bonus, and its regular savings Tessa from £25 pays 12 per cent. All three accounts will pay a 1 per cent bonus at the end of the five years.

The Britannia Building Society is paying 15 per cent and guaranteeing a differential of 6 per cent above its gross ordinary share rate. No withdrawals are permitted and premature closure of the account is subject to 90 days loss of interest.

The Bristol & West Building Society is paying 13.5 per cent and offering a bonus of up to £500 for savers who do not



Commission: Ian Lindsey

withdraw interest. The Town & Country will pay up to 13.5 per cent interest plus a 1 per cent bonus at April 30. A further 1 per cent will be paid on April 30, 1992, and a loyalty bonus of the same amount will be paid at the end of the five years. No interest can be withdrawn without giving notice.

The Leamington Spa Building Society is offering up to 15 per cent including a 3 per cent bonus of the first year's

contributions to those who invest the maximum of £9,000 over the term. The minimum investment is £1,000 and there are no penalties.

The Chelsea Building Society is offering 13 per cent at the outset and a 5 per cent bonus on the first year's savings at the end of the five years. It allows no interest withdrawals and requires a notice period of three months for transfers or cashing in a Tessa. The minimum lump sum investment is £150 and £50 for monthly subscriptions.

Bank of Scotland customers who registered before the end of July can earn 13.5 per cent during the first year. Those who apply for accounts by the end of February will receive 13 per cent and others will earn 12.5 per cent from the bank's Tessa.

Cartmore Money Management, which is paying 13.65 per cent, found that 67 per cent of people surveyed were aware of the launch of Tessa. Its Tessa desk can be contacted on 071 236 9362. Tyndall is also paying 13.65 per cent and has a Tessa hotline on 0272 732241.

The Co-operative Bank is paying 14 per cent interest plus a loyalty bonus of 1 per cent on money invested in the first year to those who sign up before the end of March. This



Interest: John Hutchinson

rate is guaranteed until Easter. The North of England Building Society is paying 14 per cent interest on its Tessa. The Norwich & Peterborough Building Society is paying up to 13 per cent and will give a bonus of 10 per cent of the first year's investment at maturity.

The Yorkshire Bank is paying 12.5 per cent and a loyalty bonus of 2 per cent at the end of the five years. The Scarborough Building Society is

paying 13 per cent plus a 6 per cent bonus on the first year's investment at the end of the five years for accounts opened before the end of March.

The Cheshire Building Society is paying 14.5 per cent and guarantees that its Tessa rate will match its mortgage rate during next year. After that it will be 0.5 per cent below the rate for £3,000 and above and 1 per cent below for smaller sums.

Robin Bloor of Chase de Vere, the London financial advisers, said: "A great number of savers would be foolish not to take up a Tessa. They have money in a building society now and it is likely to be there in five years time. It is a relatively complex area and we have set up a Freephone line for anyone who calls the operator and asks for Chase Tessa."

MoneyGuides are offering a Tessa guide free to subscribers during January. Because some Tessa providers are offering commission to intermediaries of up to 1.5 per cent, there is likely to be strong support from them. One bank has been promised £20 million for its Tessa by a single broker. Hargreaves Lansdown, the Bristol brokers, will also offer a complete guide to Tessa during the first week of January.

## HAMPSHIRE Building Society

DUE TO A CHANGE IN INCOME TAX LEGISLATION THE FOLLOWING RATES OF INTEREST WILL BE PAYABLE ON INVESTMENTS, AS FROM THE 1st JANUARY 1991.

MINIMUM INVESTMENT	GROSS %	ILLUSTRATIVE NET %	NET % For closure before 6th April 1991
<b>Quay60</b>			
50,000 +	14.68	11.01	11.45
30,000 +	14.36	10.77	11.20
20,000 +	14.04	10.53	10.95
(Annual Interest)			
10,000 +	13.72	10.29	10.70
5,000 +	13.40	10.05	10.45
2,000 +	13.08	9.81	10.20

<b>Quay</b>	20,000 +	13.08	9.81	10.20
(Annual Interest)	5,000 +	12.69	9.52	9.90
	500 +	11.92	8.94	9.30
	Below 500	8.91	6.88	6.95

<b>PAID UP SHARES</b>	1 +	8.91	6.88	6.95
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<b>ANCHOR ACCOUNT</b>	500 +	12.82	9.62	10.00
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<b>GOLDEN ANCHOR ACCOUNT</b>	1,000 +	13.40	10.05	10.45
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**New Year resolution** number one: get to know Tessa. All adult building society and bank savers should now consider opening a tax exempt special savings account or Tessa as they are called. Those who do not will be paying too much tax voluntarily.

At current interest rates, those who put the maximum £3,000 investment into a Tessa on Wednesday will earn up to £185 more interest next year than those who remain invested in the comparable ordinary savings account.

Investors may worry about locking their money away for five years. But they should look at the new accounts positively. If they are careful in their choice of Tessa, they can only gain. Many of the accounts are structured to allow investors to bail out in a cash emergency without loss — other than the tax benefits.

Those in any doubt about

whether they will need the money before the Tessa matures should avoid accounts that penalise early withdrawal, or put all the bonuses into the final year.

This means that those who have to cash in a Tessa early can earn as much interest as they would have done in a premium building society or bank account. Tessa will allow the withdrawal of net interest. In year one that could be about £350. Those savers able to leave the capital untouched for five years will have the benefit of tax free interest.

It seems too good a deal to miss. Savers should beware of the more complicated accounts, as these are more difficult to compare with the rest of the market. While Tessa is taking

## Get to know Tessa straightaway



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

off, the personal equity plan industry is concerned that its recently won tax concession on cash holdings may be lost. When composite rate tax is scrapped on April 6, cash holdings in Peps will become free of tax. When announcing this decision in October, the Inland Revenue made it clear that if there were abuses of this benefit it might be withdrawn. Now there are fears that for most Pep investors it might be lost before it has even

started. Legal & General is advertising its new Gulf Option plan and declaring that it will defer payment of interest on cash holdings until April to avoid paying any tax. The option, launched at the beginning of the month, will remain in cash until the danger of hostilities in the Gulf is over or April, whichever is the sooner. When it begins to invest it will phase the money into the market over six months. Legal & General says that its

action will not jeopardise other investors. It has consulted with the Revenue and been told that its concern was with individual investors remaining in cash, not fund managers. The spokesman added that the last of the money would be invested in October at the latest. This is ten months after the first money went into the plan.

His optimism does not reassure other Pep providers. Once again the greed of the few is seen as spoiling a generous system for the rest.

### Stock rush

Practically the last piece of mail that Stock Group investors received before the Christmas

shutdown was a letter requiring them to reply by return of post. The hapless investors have been waiting for news of their investments since early June, when British & Commonwealth collapsed. They were rightly angry. It was only as everything ground to a halt that Stock Group sent out the undated, unsigned letter stating that it wanted to discharge its responsibility to clients as soon as possible.

The investors were given a client response form to send back. They had to agree on the details of dividends, money from the sale of shares and interest that Stock said was held for them. They had struggled for months to discover the amount of money frozen in the British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank when others had already received compensation. Timing is everything in investment. Few companies get it as wrong so consistently as Stock Group.

□ The Britannia Building Society is cutting its mortgage rate to 12.5 per cent for the initial six months for first-time buyers who take out its Helpstart package. The package involves taking out a Britannia Life low-cost or full endowment policy to cover the amount of the loan. Buildings insurance will be required and a mortgage guarantee policy may also be compulsory. After the first six months, the rate reverts to the

society's standard one, currently 14.5 per cent.

□ BNP Mortgages, part of the Banque Nationale de Paris, has reduced its mortgage rates from 16 per cent to 14.625 per cent. The rate is linked to the London interbank rate.

□ A free guide to the financial aspects of marital breakdown has been published by the Norton Rose M5 Group, in time for the post-Christmas flood of divorce petitions. *Divorce and Separation* — The

*Constructive Approach* looks at maintenance, tax, business and other assets, trusts and inheritances, pensions and insurance and is available from Norton Rose M5, 12 The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham.

□ Almost one in four motorists with comprehensive insurance cover makes a claim

### BRIEFINGS

each year compared to one in six a decade ago, according to statistics from the Association of British Insurers. This has led to premium rises of up to 20 per cent for all drivers, even those with good driving records. Preferred Assurance of Camberley claims to offer cover only to safe motorists and to use approved motor

engineers to speed up estimates for claims.

□ The Lambeth Building Society will recredit returned electricity share offer cheques to customers accounts backdated to the date of withdrawal, ensuring no loss of interest.

□ The School Fees Insurance Agency has announced a record £25 million investment in its educational trust, which is free of income and capital-gains tax. The agency's special

reserve-guaranteed returns of 10.3 and 10.2 per cent on five year deferrals through its special reserve last summer. It expects to make further guaranteed offers in the coming months.

Currently anyone wanting to deposit a lump sum and defer drawing for five years would obtain a return of 8.6 per cent. The trust pays out more than £20 million of fees a year for more than 12,000 children.

## Halifax predicts spring recovery in house prices

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY?



A SIGNIFICANT recovery in the housing market in the spring is predicted by the Halifax Building Society in its annual review. The largest lender said, however, that there will not be a housing boom similar to that in 1985-88 and it expects that once the stocks of unsold properties are cleared, prices will rise 5 per cent or so by the end of next year (writes Lindsay Cook).

David Gilchrist, group general manager, said that the prediction assumes that bank base rates will fall 2 per cent to 12 per cent and mortgage rates to 12.5 per cent.

The society is also keen for extra help for homebuyers in the form of indexation of mortgage interest tax relief (MITR) to the retail prices index. Mr Gilchrist said: "Nine million people are benefiting from tax relief and someone needs to speak on their behalf. It would be helpful if we had a clear picture of what the government intends to do."

He added: "It is one of the few areas of tax relief to be eroded by inflation. Logically, a tax allowance to which the government is committed should be indexed." The society said: "It is also unreasonable for the authorities to stress their support 'in principle' for mortgage interest tax relief, while allowing its real benefit to steadily erode. Options are to reaffirm its support for MITR and index the ceiling, preferably to £65,000, to maintain its 1983 value in real terms. Alternatively, there should be a clear policy to reduce, eliminate or amend the relief."

One option would be to abolish relief at higher rates of tax and then gradually reduce the rate at which relief is given below the basic rate of tax. The Halifax advises that such action should be gradual to avoid major disruptions to existing borrowers' incomes and to the market.

The society said that companies pay corporation tax for virtually all their interest payments. Until 1969, full tax relief was available to everyone on all their borrowings. From that year it was restricted mainly to loans for buying or improving property.

Although restored in 1972, it was restricted again in 1974 when the £25,000 ceiling for mortgage tax relief was introduced. At the time, the average mortgage was £6,500. The ceiling was raised to £30,000 in 1983. If it had been indexed to house prices since 1974 it would now be £140,000 and if linked to prices since 1983 it would be £65,000.

The society said that the failure to index the ceiling for the tax relief is gradually eliminating it in real terms. Britain is not unique in offering help with house purchase. The Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland give relief in full. In France, Germany, Austria and Luxembourg relief is available on a sliding scale. This increases for each dependent child in the household. In America, unlimited relief on borrowing on up to two properties is available. With mortgage rates at 14.5 per cent, mortgage tax relief is typically worth £90 a month to basic rate taxpayers and £145 to higher rate taxpayers.

## Popularity of unit trusts falls further

By BARBARA ELLIS

UNIT trusts moved close to becoming a minority investment taste this year.

Cash trusts and the tax advantages of personal equity plans helped deflect attention from generally dismal one to three year results. Some of the best performances benefited only a few unitholders.

Figures from the Unit Trust Association show that by the beginning of December, unit-holder accounts had fallen by 217,000 from the end-1989 total of 4.88 million — about 1.5 million individual investors. This was a much steeper drop than the 160,000 accounts lost in the year after the 1987 crash.

In the year to December, unit trusts averaged a 23.76 per cent loss. With one exception, the top 25 funds were either cash or gilt trusts and only the top nine achieved gains of more than 10 per cent. Four of those top nine funds put together have less than 1,000 unitholders.

Framlington's £1.2 million gilt income fund and £1 million gilt growth fund showed gains of 13 per cent and 15 per cent over the year to mid-December. Framling-

ton gilt income has 120 holders against the gilt growth fund's 100.

Stewart Ivory's personal equity plan, at just over £100,000, is the smallest unit trust to reach the top ten and the only equity fund. David Hume, the fund manager, said the fund was invested 33 per cent in capital goods, 14 per cent in consumer goods, 25 per cent in other goods and 12 per cent in cash.

"As the fund is very small and tending to have a positive cash flow, it puts the manager on the front foot," he said. Gilt fund managers appear to relish the onset of a recession and regard possible war as a temporary setback. Mike Shaw of Framlington said: "Deep recession is very positive for bond markets."

Ken Emery of Save & Prosper and Tim Miller of M&G both noted approvingly that Pep investors appeared far less concerned with short-term performance than other unitholders.

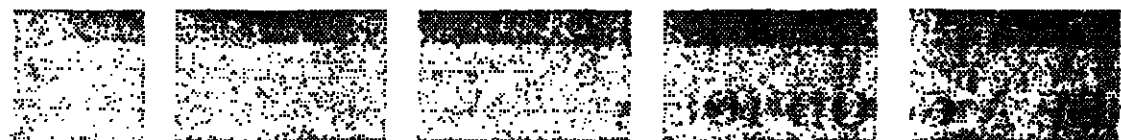
Save & Prosper has about £150 million under management for 42,000 Pep holders, while M&G's total is £130 million for 75,000 holders.

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**TOP RATE FROM A TOP 10 SOCIETY**

**16.0% GROSS P.A.**

Balance	Gross	Net
£25,000	16.0%	
£40,000	16.0%	
£50,000	16.0%	
£75,000	16.0%	



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# Archer takes second shot at retirement from Lloyd's agency

By NEIL BENNETT

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Jimmy Archer

ON MONDAY, Jimmy Archer, chairman of the Lloyd's underwriting agency that carries his name, is writing his last risk and retiring, 52 years after joining the insurance market.

Archer is more than just a Lloyd's underwriter. He is a walking almanac of more than a half century of the market's history, broken only by his army service in the second world war. He retired for the first time in 1978, but was asked back by Kenneth Grob, the former chairman of Alexander Howden, the Lloyd's broker, to save an ailing syndicate. Now, aged 68, Archer has decided to retire again.

His career is a classic rags-to-riches tale. He was born in Barnsbury, then one of the poorest parts of north London, the youngest of seven brothers. "I don't think there was a tougher part of London. Our parents never stood a chance. When my father died, his estate was 15 guineas."

Both his parents had died by the time he was six, leaving his eldest brother, aged 20, to bring up the family. Archer was sent to an orphanage in Watford. "It was stark, tough and very Victorian. But it had very fine playing fields. Without sport it would have been very difficult to have survived there."

Archer left school at 16 after answering a newspaper advertisement for trainee insurance brokers. "It was the necessity of getting a job and I answered the first advert I saw." On January 1, 1939, he joined Walrond Scarnan, a small broking firm run by Lord Scarnan's father.

Archer was immediately sent to place risks in the main market. But after six months, he caught the eye of Percy Cranmer, a marine underwriter he placed business with. Cranmer offered to double Archer's salary to £2 a week if he joined his syndicate as an entry boy. Archer accepted. "I made a firm resolution never to change jobs unless I received at least a 100 per cent salary increase. Even out of a pound a week I still used to put half a crown into the Post Office savings bank."

Archer volunteered for the army in 1940. "My schooling had been so tough, the army seemed easy by comparison." He was stationed in Iraq and fought his way through north Africa. A grenade wound in Sicily led to convalescence and then a commission with the Gordon Highlanders. Archer then served in India and Burma and ended the war in Germany.

The army asked him to stay on as captain. "I mentally tossed a coin whether to return to Lloyd's or stay in the army. I loved the army, but I felt I owed a debt to my eldest brother who would have been very upset if I had stayed in."

During the war, one of Archer's brothers died in a prisoner of war camp in Silesia. Another died after the war from injuries he suffered as a fireman during the Blitz. Archer returned to the family home in north London in 1946, and lived there until he married the daughter of a local tinsmith a year later.

Even today, Lloyd's is one of the most conservative parts of the City, but after the war it had

"The ways of business have changed and will change more rapidly in the future. But Lloyd's can be a kind place, people are very courteous, and that has never changed"

changed little since the beginning of the century. The dress code was as strict as it was unwritten. "It was smarter than today. I used to wear a black jacket and striped trousers which was more or less the accepted form."

The market still opened with a skeleton staff on Saturday mornings, when underwriters and brokers could appear in towed suits ready for a weekend in the country. One broker went too far and wore plus fours. He was swiftly debagged and the trousers thrown over the rostrum. "It just wasn't the done thing. He had tried to take the micky out of the market and the market reciprocated. There is certainly more pressure in Lloyd's today. The business has become more complicated, mainly because of the oil business. Values are so huge. The ways of doing business have changed and will change more rapidly in the future. But Lloyd's can be a very kind place, people are very courteous, and that has never changed."

It took Archer 14 years of steady promotion to become joint underwriter with Percy Cranmer, and he replaced him as the main underwriter in 1962. "I realised that my capabilities in comparison with many were minute, and I had a long learning curve ahead of me. One was always striving to get to the top, but I was prepared to take my time and learn the job properly."

During his time at Lloyd's, Archer remembers the Lutine Bell being rung more than 50 times. The bell is sounded for major disasters or celebrations, and is hardly ever heard today. Among the sea disasters he remembers is Hurricane Betsy in 1965, and more recently Piper Alpha and Hurricane Hugo. "The claims from 1989 in aggregate were vast, which makes me feel very proud that Lloyd's has survived."

Archer first decided to retire in 1978. "I felt I had achieved everything I wanted to. It was time to hand over to other people. I was perfectly happy in retirement."

Archer has no pastimes. He remained a consultant to his old firm and became chairman of a small broking house. Then Grob offered him a job. Grob and Archer had been close friends since the war. "He was a

very good broker, very dynamic and really very charming. He was a broker with lots of good business and I wanted to write it."

Alexander Howden then owned underwriting syndicate number 868. The syndicate needed a new underwriter.

"I turned Grob down twice and each time the salary was doubled. In the end I said I would do it and signed a three year contract for £75,000 a year." At that time, in 1980, Archer was Howden's highest paid employee.

In August 1982, Grob resigned from Howden after an audit revealed a shortfall of about \$25 million in the broker's assets. Three years later Grob and two associates were expelled from Lloyd's after a disciplinary hearing into several matters, including the purchase of a stake in the Banque du Rhône et de la Tamise, a Swiss bank. Last year Grob was acquitted of 16 charges of theft. Ian Fosgate, Howden's former star underwriter, was also cleared of conspiracy to steal.

"Fosgate could be a kind man, but he was always a maverick. A little bit of entrepreneurial spirit in Lloyd's is probably good."

Archer's three year contract was about to expire when the scandal broke. Jack Bogardus, chairman of Alexander & Alexander, Howden's American parent, asked him to take over Fosgate's former syndicate. "It was a tremendous task. The risks were enormous since there had been a philosophy of piling them high and selling them cheap."

Half the names, or Lloyd's investors, left the syndicate, forcing Archer to reduce risk exposure rapidly and introduce a full reinsurance programme.

Archer has a reputation as one of the most technically skilled underwriters in the Lloyd's market, and the rescue needed all his talents.

One colleague said: "To my mind if there had been anyone else taking that syndicate over the names would have found themselves in Queer Street." Once the trouble was over, Archer renamed the syndicate 741 and has continued underwriting there ever since.

But the consequences of the Alexander Howden affair were far from complete for Archer. In 1985, he led a management buyout of Howden's underwriting managing agency, since the 1982 Lloyd's Act ordered brokers to divest their underwriting subsidiaries.

The negotiations took him to Alexander & Alexander's headquarters in New York. "I had to be tough with Jack Bogardus. He wanted £18 million, so I said he was speaking to the wrong people. I told him we were prepared to pay £12 million and he agreed in a very short time. In retrospect, the business was worth £20 million."

The business, renamed AJ Archer (his first name is Albert) was floated in 1988. After his retirement, Archer will remain life president.

Archer, known as Fred throughout Lloyd's after the famous jockey, has kept up a working day that would finish many younger men. He drives from his flat in



Walking almanac: Jimmy Archer retires from Lloyd's of London on Monday after 52 years in the insurance industry

Docklands in his Renault 5 to the AJ Archer office at seven o'clock each morning. By mid-morning he arrives at his box in Lloyd's and gets down to his main love - underwriting. After the market closes at 5.30 pm, he often returns to the company offices to clear up unfinished business.

It is significant that Archer's job is to be divided into three when he retires, with Richard Maylam becoming company chairman and two underwriters being appointed to his syndicates.

He cuts an austere figure in the market, and even some of his fellow directors deferentially call

him Mr Archer. "He's a bit of a loner, even a bit shy," says one associate.

"There he is, a multi-millionaire and no-one would guess it. People are quite frightened of him, especially brokers. But that might not be a bad thing. You have got to frighten brokers now and then." If a broker dares to approach Archer without the proper paperwork or information he suffers the consequences.

Archer's two syndicates, 741 and 868, are large and highly profitable.

On his retirement, Archer is worried about Lloyd's future. "I

think it is at crisis point since it has the unsolved problem of unclosed years."

"These are a cancer to the possible regeneration of Lloyd's membership. At least under Murray Lawrence's chairmanship there has been a serious attempt to solve this problem."

Underwriting years are left open in Lloyd's after a syndicate has suffered losses so heavy they cannot be quantified, and threaten members with years of losses.

Lloyd's members can even die and their estate cannot be distributed if they are exposed to an open year. Archer reserves a sharp word

for the new Lloyd's building. "It is like working in a provincial multi-storey car-park."

He also treats the market's growing automation with suspicion, since he believes there is no substitute for staring a broker in the eye before deciding whether to underwrite his risk.

Now, 12 years after his first attempt at retirement, Archer is leaving again. "I have seen people stay too long." He plans to tour the world, revisiting the places he saw in the army, and Silesia where his brother died. But, as president of AJ Archer, he will still keep his eye on the market.

## Recession depletes debts

FEWER débutantes will be coming out in New York this season as even the wealthy are finding themselves exposed to the recession.

According to one estimate, to introduce one's daughter into Manhattan society can cost \$10,000 once dresses, cars, wine, raffles and presentation fees of between \$1,200 and \$2,000 are paid.

Few of the Park Avenue powerful are prepared to discuss finances, but only 30 debts will be presented at one party this year against 56 a year ago and 75 in the roaring Eighties. Texans, however, always field a strong team.

Many of the wealthiest families are about to feel the pinch of a new luxury item tax from January 1, which will give Uncle Sam 10 per cent of the retail price of items costing above certain thresholds: \$30,000 for private cars; \$100,000 for boats and yachts; \$10,000 for furs, jewellery and watches and \$250,000 for private planes.

The US Treasury estimates the rich will pay an additional \$25 million next year and \$1.5 billion over the next five years. The tax is politically popular, seen as a way to extract money from the rich to help close the trade gap. Upmarket retailers of jewellery and luxury cars have reported a certain amount of rush to beat the budget, but not quite at levels that make an impact on the budget deficit, which has been in the three figure billions for a few years.

Shawn Sullivan, vice president of Van Cleef & Arpels, the jewellers on Fifth Avenue, said the tax was a statement by politicians who wanted to show the middle

## CAPITAL CITY

PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK



Luxury tax: furs in firing line

were going after the wealthy. "In reality," he said, "it is a punitive tax against the jewellery industry, not against the rich. To remain competitive, we will have to absorb much of the cost."

That cost would work out at \$2,000 on a \$50,000 car, \$5,000 on a \$150,000 boat and \$5,000 on a \$60,000 diamond necklace. Gerald Portney, a former IRS lawyer and now a principal at KMPG Peat Marwick, accountants, believes the government faces a list of nearly insurmountable prob-

revenue generated will fall far short of official projections.

Since 1981, the gap between the highest of the middle family income and the rest has climbed as sharply as the fledgling Polly Peck share price. Only one in five American families at the top of the income scale have prospered in recent years.

The real income of these rose from \$73,764 in 1981 to \$92,663 last year, largely bolstered by the Wall Street boom. Income of the second highest to lowest fifth has remained largely unchanged since 1973. Real income is falling again. Weekly wages of the middle earners is down from a 1988 peak of \$537 to just over \$500 in September.

Economists say that it is unlikely to improve. The wages of millions of families buy less now than they did in 1973. Figures from Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, the stockbrokers, show the number of consumers is beginning to sag. Only 600,000 new households were formed to March this year, the lowest for six years, by fewer marriages and more young men living at home.

The trend is worrying. For America to pick itself out of what could become a steep slump, economists say more dramatic remedies are needed than tinkering with interest rates. To them, soaking the rich has never proved a remedy for vastly increased taxes.

Paying 10 per cent more for diamonds is less important economically than having millions of consumers feeling prosperous enough to flock to department stores and stock in-

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE



## MONEY

## SUMMARY

## Flood of Tesses expected

AN AVALANCHE of applications for tax exempt special savings accounts is expected next week when the accounts get under way officially.

The number of registrations and the demand for application forms have surprised savings institutions offering the investments, announced in the Budget.

Helplines are being manned round the clock and extra staff are being drafted in to open the accounts. Every leading bank and building society has announced its interest rates for the accounts. Details of the terms and conditions of the accounts ..... Page 36 and 37

## Archer's outlook



At the end of a long and illustrious career at Lloyd's of London, Jimmy Archer talks to Neil Bennett about his life and the industry ..... Page 39

## Tax relief

Mortgage tax relief should be linked to the retail price index, the Halifax Building Society says in its annual housing market review. The ceiling would have to be more than doubled to £65,000 to bring it to the 1983 level, the largest lender argues ..... Page 38

## You write

Hes a man of low self-pep



Charges on personal equity plans are the cause of the low take-up for the tax free plans, according to one reader. Also of concern is the ease with which vouchers can be forged, and a reader makes a plea for larger minimum prizes with premium bonds ..... Page 37

## Unitholders

The number of unit trust accounts fell by 217,000 in the year to the beginning of December. The decline is worse than the year after the stock market crash ..... Page 38

## BUSINESS

## Nikkei sags

Japanese stocks fell nearly 40 per cent in 1990, finishing the year with a drop of 91.99 points on the Nikkei index at 23,848.71 ..... Page 32

## Trouble in store

Many shops had their worst year for a decade, but next year is likely to be even grimmer, according to Goldman Sachs ..... Page 32

## THE SUNDAYTIMES

## Best share performance

The shares recommended this time last year by The Sunday Times Business team performed better than those of any other national newspaper. Tomorrow the top stock-tipping team names the shares it hopes will outdo the others in 1991

## Resolve to cut capital gains and income tax

Begin the new year by learning how to save tax on investments and some regular outgoings and 1991 could be all the more prosperous.

Sara McConnell provides guidance

A NEW year's resolution to use all capital gains tax and income tax exemptions and to invest as much as possible in pensions and other schemes with tax relief, could retrieve a lot of cash.

Successive governments have encouraged people to save for their old age through pensions or to invest more in British industry or in new businesses. The latest initiative is the tax exempt special savings scheme (Tessa), to be launched next week. Savers who deposit £9,000 over five years in a Tessa will have tax free interest.

Other tax free investments, such as National Savings Certificates and capital bonds, business expansion schemes and pensions, require investors to commit money for varying lengths of time or pay tax penalties on interest or growth.

The first £5,000 of any capital gain is free from tax and this year husbands and wives each have had a £5,000 CGT exemption and independent personal income tax allowances. This guide is intended to help people get the best from the tax system.

## Buying homes

Successive governments have given borrowers relief at their highest rate of tax on mortgage interest. This is paid on the first £30,000 of the mortgage on their main home. Operated under the mortgage interest relief at source scheme, it is predicted to end and might initially be restricted to basic rate tax only.

Most homeowners pay no capital gains tax when they sell their home and make a profit as long as the house is their principal private residence. Those with two houses can choose one to be their principal home. If neither is chosen, the taxman will decide.

If the house is let, owners may be liable for capital gains tax. If the owners live abroad and allow members of their family to live in the house rent free, they lose their CGT exemption. Living abroad does not generally disqualify owners from a CGT exemption.

## Savings certificates

Fixed interest and index linked National Savings Certificates are free of income tax and the return is guaranteed. The 35th issue National Savings Certificate went on sale in June and cash invested over five years will earn 9.5 per cent a year tax free. Savers can only pay a maximum of £1,000 into the scheme but can transfer £10,000 from matured certificates from previous issues. Index linked certificates pay the rate of inflation plus 4.5 per cent tax free over five years. The first £70 of annual interest on Ordinary Savings Accounts at Post Offices is tax free, with 5 per cent interest on balances above £500 held for a calendar year.

## Friendly societies

A monthly investment of £13.50 or £150 a year for ten years in a friendly society is an easy way to save. Friendly society policies are savings contracts with an element of life assurance and proceeds are tax free. The contracts are usually unit linked and the value of investments can fall.

## Tesses

All adults can have a Tessa but couples cannot have joint accounts. A £9,000 investment over five years will initially earn 12.15.75 per cent tax free. Up to £3,000 can be invested in year one £1,800 in each of the next three years and £600 in the final year. Tax is paid on interest if capital is taken out before the five years.

## Personal equity plans

The maximum amount anyone can put into a 1990/1991 PEP is

£6,000. Up to £3,000 of this can be invested in unit trusts or investment trusts. These must hold 50 per cent of their investments in UK equities. A further £3,000 can be invested directly in UK equities. All income and dividends are tax free but there are management and annual charges and value added tax to pay.

PEP plans run every fiscal year and investors are not allowed to move existing shares into a PEP, except for new issues, which can be transferred within 42 days of allocation.

## Share schemes

Employee share schemes were designed to urge wider share ownership and encourage loyalty to a company by giving employees a stake in it.

Shares issued under an approved profit sharing scheme are tax free if transferred to employees five years after they have been allocated. The value of the shares allocated should not exceed £2,000 or 10 per cent of the employee's earnings up to £6,000, whichever is the higher.

## Endowments

Endowment policies have become the most popular method of repaying a mortgage, because the lump sum at the end of the term is tax free and could give borrowers a windfall as well as paying off their mortgage. Policyholders must pay premiums on a 25-year endowment for ten years and on a ten-year endowment for seven and a half years to qualify for the tax free lump sum. Higher rate taxpayers who surrender a policy early by auctioning it off, have to pay 15 per cent income tax on any profits.

## Pensions

There is tax relief on pension contributions and part of the pension can be taken as a tax free lump sum. People not in company pension schemes qualify for tax relief by putting up to 17.5 per cent of net relevant earnings (income and the value of benefits, such as health insurance and company cars) into a pension scheme. If aged over 35, they can put 20 per cent into a scheme while for those aged over 55, the proportion rises to 35 per cent.

Pension scheme contributions receive tax relief at the highest marginal rate up to £64,800. The percentage of earnings that can be put into a pension and still be eligible for tax relief increases with age to give people a chance to put more into a pension before they retire. Additional voluntary contributions can also build up a pension in the years before retirement.

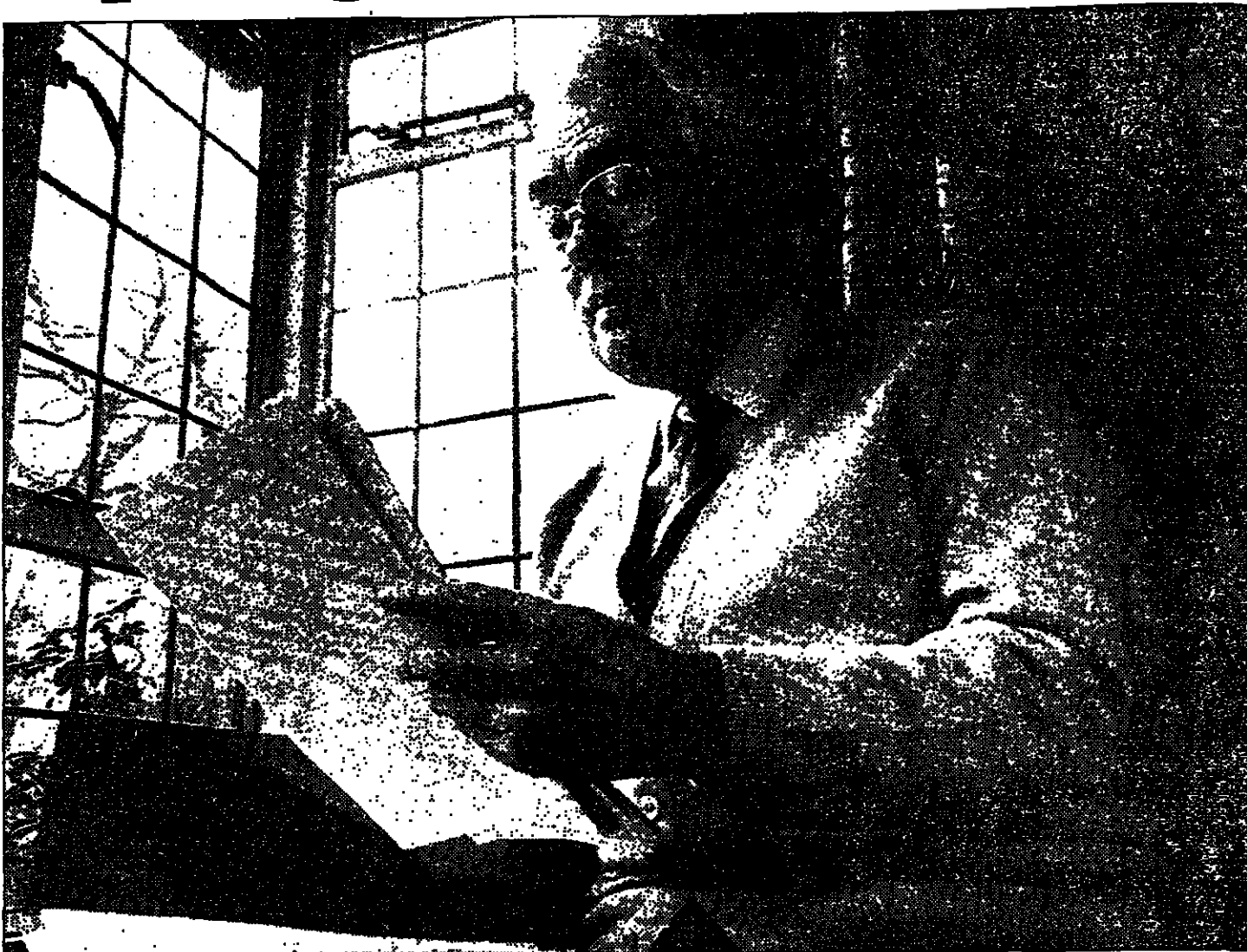
People in company pension schemes can make additional voluntary contributions up to 15 per cent, including any personal contributions that they may be required to make by their employer. Employees can, by arrangement with their employer, sacrifice part of their salary, which the employer pays into the pension scheme on their behalf. These additional contributions can only be taken as pension, not as a tax free lump sum.

Personal pension rules allow 25 per cent of the value of the fund produced by non-protected rights (not guaranteed) to be taken as a tax free lump sum.

## Business schemes

These schemes aim to attract higher rate taxpayers to invest in start up businesses, homes for rent and commercial property. Investors can set their investment (maximum £40,000) against tax at the highest rate.

From April, both a husband and wife have had a £40,000 al-



Sitting pretty: additional voluntary contributions not only saved Eddie Cotter tax but also improved his pension

lowance. If they hold the shares for five years, profits are free of all tax. Investors can buy a share in commercial property in a government-designated enterprise zone through a trust. The investment is divided into units to give smaller investors a way in and costs of building can be set against income from the development.

## Forestry

Tax exemptions for tree planting received bad publicity when it was disclosed that various media personalities had bought woodland to reduce their tax bills, in areas where it was said to be environmentally damaging. Companies that manage forestry investments for clients say Britain has to import 88 per cent of its timber so tax breaks are necessary to encourage investment in Britain's forests.

Capital gains tax liabilities incurred by disposing of business assets can be postponed by ploughing them into forestry. There is no CGT or income tax due on the profits made from timber. There are also government grants on a sliding scale, which pay for planting or regeneration.

## Inheritance tax

The first £128,000 of any estate, which includes stocks, shares, property, jewellery and cars, is free from inheritance tax. There is no tax on transfers between husband and wife and everyone can give away up to £3,000 a year tax free. Any part of this allowance that is unused in one year can be used the next year.

A bride and groom can give each other up to £2,500, while they can receive £5,000 from either set of parents, £2,500 from grandparents and £1,000 from anyone else. Gifts to political parties and charities are tax free as are the proceeds of life policies written in trust. By making a potentially exempt transfer, if the donor lives for seven years after making a gift, it is free of inheritance tax.

## Antiques

Items that sell for £6,000 or less are tax free and there is reduced tax to pay on antiques that fetch slightly more than this. Capital gains tax can be avoided by donating the asset to a charity or museum or for public benefit if it is of artistic or national importance. Race horses or yachts are considered wasting assets as they have a useful life of less than 50 years. Profits made on sales of

these are usually exempt from capital gains tax.

## Maintenance pay

Maintenance payments are tax free for the recipient but not for the donor. The person paying maintenance can deduct either the amount paid or £1,720 a year, the separated couples' allowance, from income to be assessed for tax. Those paying maintenance under a court order or applications for maintenance made before March 15, 1988, can obtain tax relief at their highest rate on payments.

## Gambling

Pools winnings are free of tax. The first pools millionaire was a woman from Bexley who won £1,032,088 in 1987, but pools dividends in four figures are not uncommon.

Casinos and other types of gambling are also free of tax but winnings on bets on horses have tax deducted at 10 per cent. The winner can elect to have the tax deducted from the stake or winnings.

## Premium bonds

Premium bond prizes ranging from £50 to £250,000 are free of tax. The minimum stake for adults is £100, which buys 100 chances in each draw. The minimum investment for premium bonds bought for a child aged under 16 is £10. Bonds do not make money unless they win a prize.

Tesses flood Pages 36 and 37

## Extra contributions top up the pension

PEOPLE who realise that their pension is inadequate could consider additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) and paying salary bonuses into a pension plan.

Higher tax rates, averaging a basic rate of 32 per cent over the eight years he contributed, meant he gave up just under £1,000 take home pay to have £1,500 invested into his tax free pension fund. He also gave up £1,400 of his bonus to have £2,000 invested.

When Mr Cotter retired, having made his final contributions to the Save & Prosper scheme in 1986, KFS had paid £12,000 into the scheme, £12,500 came from bonus sacrifice and £12,000 from AVC payments, making the final value of the fund £65,483. This produced a pension of £6,221 a year in the first year with a guaranteed rise of 5 per cent compounded each year for the rest of his life. Two-thirds of the total pension came from bonus contributions and AVCs, a total of £3,500 a year gross. The 14.5 per cent annual return meant £43,600 of the final fund value came from bonus and AVCs.

"Had Mr Cotter taken this money as pay he would only have received approximately £2,450 a year. Even assuming that he had achieved the same rate of return as the pension fund in another form of investment, his return would have been taxed," said Mr Otway.

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## Art for Inland Revenue's sake

SELLERS of art works or heirlooms that fetch more than £6,000 may have to pay capital gains tax on the whole difference between the value when acquired and the sale value, less indexation.

One woman not aware of this when she sold a Roger Cello at auction for £50,000 in 1982, had a £7,400 tax bill, interest of almost £1,000, plus a £750 penalty billed to her when the Inland Revenue found out three years later.

The woman, now dead, had owned and played the cello for 50 years and it had been in her family since the late nineteenth century. She was not aware she should have paid capital gains tax on the cello until she mentioned it to Andrew Tappin, a private client services partner at BDO Binder Hamlyn.

"She mentioned that she had been given pleasure when someone had brought the cello round

"When I learnt about the sale I had to tell the Revenue. She had been advised on the sale by a solicitor but he missed the point that she would have to pay CGT."

The tax authorities said the woman should have read the small print about capital gains tax, but later reduced the penalty to £2,09. There was a partial tax exemption because the woman had owned the cello prior to 1965.

Another of Mr Tappin's clients is disputing a tax bill for the sale of a work of art. Capital gains tax is limited to the increase in market value since 1982 and the Inland Revenue's independent art expert valued the work at £4,000 in 1982. It sold during the 1989-90 tax year for £11,000.

The owner will not receive a £6,000 exemption because the work is too valuable and in addition in paying tax she had to



Andrew Tappin: clients taxed

Revenue's valuation. Indexation will reduce the bill and sellers of valuable works of art have an annual £5,000 exemption al-